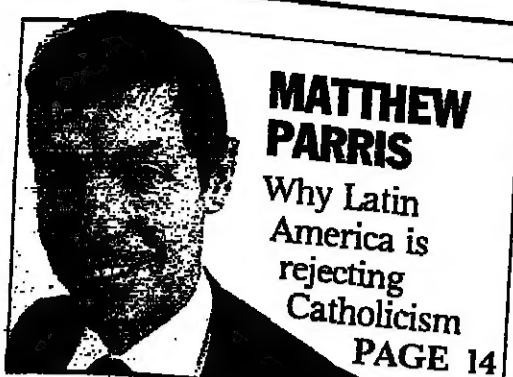




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Argentine Grand Prix: Hill wins four in a row
Rangers beat Celtic in the semi-final of the Scottish cup
SECTION 2

Hereditary peers 'will lose vote'

Blair to inflict instant curb on the Lords

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is planning to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights as soon as it comes to power in the first step towards an elected House of Lords.

Tony Blair has made clear his disdain of the 770 hereditary peers — whom he described as "Tory voting fodder" — and party strategists are considering bringing in a short Bill to strip them of their powers within the first six months of a Labour government.

More radical reform of the Lords might have to wait until a second or third Labour Parliament, so the curbs are partly intended to reassure activists and prevent party splits in the early stages of a Blair administration.

There are hundreds of Tory hereditary peers, compared with 12 Labour and 24 Liberal Democrats, giving the Conservatives a massive built-in majority in the Lords. Mr Blair, who recently declared that some were there "merely because they were the descendants of royal mistresses, intends to reverse that, although he has made plain that those who provide good service to Parliament could become life peers and continue voting. The law lords would also remain.

Well-known figures who would be disenfranchised by such a law include the Lords leader, Viscount Cranborne, Lord Strathclyde, the Tory chief whip, along with the Labour peers Lord Ponsonby and Lord Melchett. The Labour leadership has yet to decide whether they should be given the right — at present

Tories accused of smear tactics

A Tory attempt to discredit Tony Blair on the eve of his visit to Washington appeared to have foundered as American commentators professed themselves unimpressed by a document prepared by Conservative Central Office highlighting his "un-American activities". Labour called the document "an outrageous smear."

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denied them — to vote in parliamentary elections.

Mr Blair's determination to pre-empt any party disunity was shown two weeks ago when he announced that he intended to ballot all 365,000 party members on Labour's manifesto. That move was designed to bind in the whole party into his programme to modernise Labour policy.

The hereditary peers plan is similarly intended to deflect leftwingers who might demand more radical measures at a time when the party is concentrating on complicated legislation for a Scottish parliament.

The idea has widespread support among Labour MPs, particularly the Left, and it is likely to be endorsed by many of the smaller parties. Labour strategists believe that even some Tories might back the move, and they are confident

of getting the measures through both the Commons and the Lords.

Sources also point out that once hereditary peers lost the vote, they would not be able to block a Scottish Parliament, which could have a difficult passage through the Lords.

But some MPs argue in favour of delay, saying that peers could be threatened with more draconian measures if they failed to back other legislation on constitutional matters.

The shadow home office team is now preparing timetables for all the constitutional legislation that Mr Blair intends to introduce, including a Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and regional chambers. Shadow ministers are said to be drawing up three separate timetables, allowing for a hung Parliament, a slim majority, or a large mandate.

Little work, however, is being done on plans to hold a referendum on electoral reform. Labour also hopes to placate the left by offering a pledge for legislation on the first stage for elected regional assemblies in a first Parliament. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, has already given an undertaking that each region will be able to vote in a referendum on whether it wants greater autonomy.

But leftwingers are worried that legislation will be deferred to a second Parliament and Mr Straw is being pressed to back early legislation to allow for the setting up of elected regional chambers after a referendum.



Lynne Symonds, a Norfolk teacher, being made a chief of the Marprusi tribe of Ghana at the weekend. Mrs Symonds was honoured for her help in providing books and raising money for the tribal school. Page 9. Leading article, page 15

Spelling skills three times worse among GCSE students

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SIGNIFICANT slide in teenagers' writing skills since 1980 has been revealed by a comparison of English O-level scripts with GCSE examination papers.

Researchers concluded that candidates who failed O level would now be receiving a grade C or better at GCSE English, said to be the equivalent of an O-level pass.

The study, by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, contains a damning indictment of the national curriculum for a sharp decline in spelling. English GCSE students in 1994 were up to three times worse at spelling than O-level pupils in 1980 and had a narrower range of vocabulary. There was a six-fold increase in the use of non-standard English, for example saying "real" instead of "really", or using "that" instead of "who" or "which".

Overall, the number of error-free sentences fell from 73 per cent in the 1980 English O level to 47 per cent in the 1994 GCSE English examination. The study concluded: "In some respects candidates awarded D and E grades in 1980 seemed not unlike many of those reaching C and above in more recent years."

Examination scripts were analysed from 30 boys and 30 girls awarded each grade from A to E at O level English in 1980 and from A to G at GCSE English in 1993 and 1994. O-level candidates used more adventurous vocabulary and sentence structures than pupils receiving the same grades 14 years later. While the punctuation of more able students was comparable over time, weaker O-level students were much better than weaker GCSE pupils.

Spelling differences were noticeable. For example, al-

right (instead of all right) was used at D grade in O level but at A grade in GCSE.

There was also a marked deterioration in spelling between 1993 and 1994. An average of 50 spelling errors per script in 1980 was followed by 93 per script in 1993 and 149 the next year. This was put down to the scrapping after 1993 of an option for the whole GCSE to be assessed on coursework. The vast majority of schools opted for the full coursework alternative in 1993 and examined schools that year included a high proportion of selective and independent schools. In 1994, all schools were again forced to put pupils through the traditional test.

O-level candidates were also more likely to make proper use of full stops and commas. Semi-colons were used appropriately eight times in the samples from 1980 and incorrectly once. However, just three candidates in both 1993 and in 1994 used the semi-colon correctly, with one incorrect attempt in 1994. The colon was used three times in 1980, once mistakenly, but was not even tried by anybody in 1993.

Blankett returns, page 4

Ulster is still at war, says former IRA terrorist

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY KELLY, the convicted IRA bomber and leading Republican strategist, declared yesterday in a rare public speech that Northern Ireland was in "a war situation".

And, as thousands of Republicans gathered for Easter Rising Commemoration parades on both sides of the border, John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, was accused of caving into London and failing to provide the right leadership. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, told a Londonderry rally: "Mr Bruton has not so far risen to the challenge presented by British duplicity and bad faith."

Mr Kelly, 41, who is widely respected throughout the IRA for his role as a leading terrorist in the 1970s and 1980s, was cheered by hundreds of supporters when he told a Sinn Féin and IRA rally in Drumbo, County Donegal that Republicans were still committed to removing Britain from Ireland.

"If the British Government had not squandered the year and a half of the IRA cessation for selfish party political reasons, we might have been well on the way to the resolution of the age-old conflict between Britain and Ireland," he said. Mr Kelly, who was convicted for his part in the first

London bomb attacks by the Provisional IRA in 1973, said that the movement's goals had not changed. "We want British withdrawal. Partition must end. It has not worked."

In a sign that the IRA is unlikely to restore its ceasefire in the short-term, Mr Kelly insisted that Britain must give "clear and unambiguous public assurances" that it would convene unconditional all-party talks.

IRA government would abolish powers to ban terrorist suspects from the British mainland under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary said.

Korea alert as troops move in

American troops in South Korea were put on high alert at the weekend, as a third incursion of North Korean soldiers into the demilitarised zone yesterday raised tensions in the divided peninsula. About 300 heavily armed soldiers entered the joint security area at the Panmunjom border crossing in 12 lorries. They began to leave more than two hours later. Page 7

PO takes off

The Post Office could become Britain's biggest travel agent if a trial in London is successful. Thousands of branches could sell cut-price air tickets and have computer systems to enable customers to fix up their travel documents. Page 15

Mexicans die in US border crash

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

CRAMMED into a smuggler's stolen van, seven suspected illegal immigrants with hopes of a new life in America were killed when their vehicle overturned in a ditch while fleeing the US Border Patrol.

The crash, less than a week after a videotape of police beating two immigrants was shown around the world, has brought Mexican anger over America's treatment of its citizens to a crescendo even though officials insist the vehicle was not being chased.

Besides the dead, the incident on a remote mountain road, 60 miles north of California's Mexican border, left 18 injured including three men with severe spinal injuries,

one believed to be paralysed from the neck down.

As news of Saturday's tragedy reached Los Angeles, a mood of sorrow at a rally for the victims of last week's televised beating turned to one of outrage. A 6,000-strong crowd chanted slogans, waved placards and brought parts of the city to a standstill.

"Christ's parents were immigrants," read one banner. Latino politicians attacked Pete Wilson, the state Governor re-elected in 1994 on an anti-immigration platform.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry issued an official complaint, its second in six days, and demanded an investigation by American authorities.

RAF gives the Brylcreem boys a bit more polish

By ADRIAN LEE

THE RAF is in danger of becoming the riff-raff, senior service officers fear. Once upon a time, young RAF officers were so socially adroit and dashing that they were known as the Brylcreem boys. Now they speak in monosyllables and are more at home in the disco than the ballroom.

To rectify matters, the latest 100 recruits at Cranwell are to be schooled in the finer points of life by order of Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff.

Sir Michael called for oral communication classes at the service's officer training college when he heard that

trainees responded with grunts of "yeah" and "OK" to polite inquiries from visiting superiors about their course. Worse was to follow when it emerged that the recruits, who are regarded as among the cream of the armed forces, did not know a fox trot from a waltz.

An RAF source said yesterday: "This all stemmed from a visit to mess by two very senior officers. When they asked the cadets how things were going, they got monosyllabic answers. It was all very embarrassing."

"On another occasion the cadets were at a civic function, where the mayor and mayoress were present.

When it came to formal dancing the officers just sat and looked at one another. The only dancing they know is in a disco. It is not a reflection on the qualities of the lads and lasses — these are very intelligent people — it is more a reflection on the times we live in. But it got back to Sir Michael, who wanted to know what the hell was going on and ordered the commandant at Cranwell to do something about it.

"An RAF officer must be able to carry him or herself at all times and not be embarrassed socially."

The ballroom dancing sessions are not compulsory, but cadets on the eight-week courses are "strongly advised" to participate. They are taught

fox trot, waltz, quickstep, Latin and even rock-and-roll moves.

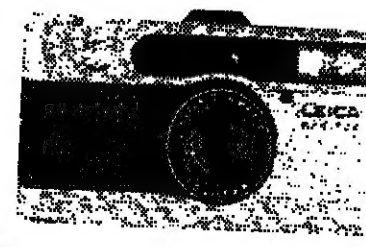
Recruits, who are in their early twenties and come from both public and comprehensive schools, also attend "dining in" evenings where they are encouraged to converse with senior officers. Other lessons cover "common etiquette and social responsibility", including such topics as dress codes and terms of address, for example how to greet an archbishop.

In a separate development Sir Michael, himself a product of Cranwell, has ordered the creation of a confidential drugs hotline at the headquarters of the RAF Police, in Bath, for the use of all ranks.

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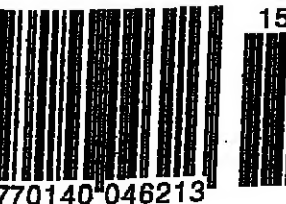
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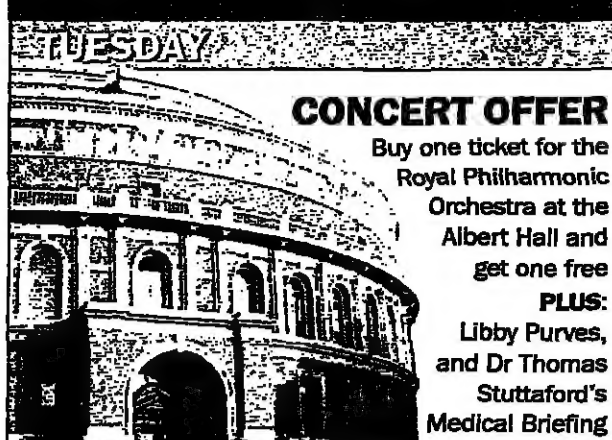
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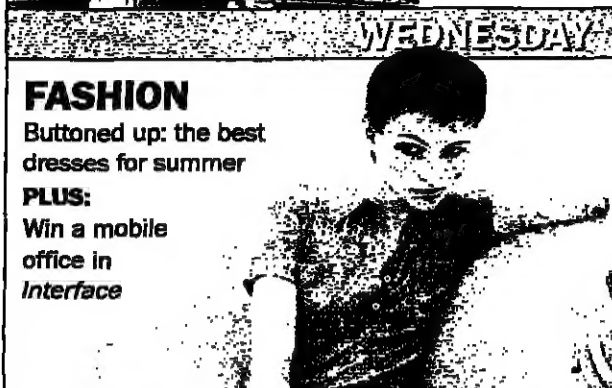
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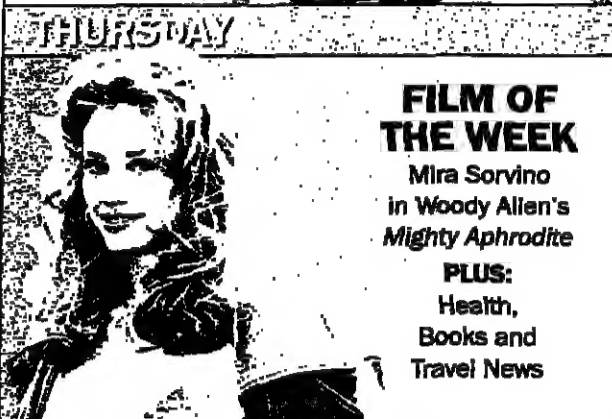
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FILM OF THE WEEK

Mira Sorvino in Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite* PLUS: Health, Books and Travel News



POP

Caitlin Moran on modern music and musicians PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview



SUMMER OF '96

40 pages of men's fashion, in the *Magazine* PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and *Vision*, the 7-day TV and radio guide

Americans dismiss 'smear memo'

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A TORY attempt to discredit Tony Blair on the eve of his visit to Washington this week appeared to have foundered last night as American commentators dismissed themselves unimpressed by a document highlighting his "un-American activities". A memorandum drawn up by the research department at Conservative Central Office and sent to Republican sympathising journalists in the United States was cited by Labour as evidence of a dirty tricks campaign against Mr Blair. But Conservative chiefs defended their action, accusing Labour of a "hysterical response" and said that all the information provided in the document was properly sourced and beyond dispute.

Tory sources said the document was compiled by the research department, under Daniel Finkelstein, its director, after American commentators approached the department for information about "this man Tony Blair". However, at least one of the recipients, a senior journalist, was given it without asking for it.

The document, which Labour believes was designed to sabotage Mr Blair's three days of talks with President Clinton, other politicians and businessmen, highlights Mr Blair's

The Labour Party's Un-American Activities

1. Blair's un-American Activities

1.1 Tony Blair in the early 1980s was opposed to nuclear weapons. During the Beaconsfield by-election of 1982 he wrote, "I support the Labour Party's present leadership" including such policies as, "nuclear disarmament, unilaterally if necessary". His election leaflets said, "Nuclear weapons are not a deterrent they are an encouragement to attack" (quoted in *The Modernist*, by Jon Sopel, p.59 2nd Edition).

Labour described the Tory dossier as outrageous

past opposition to nuclear weapons and states that in the 1980s both he and his wife Cherie were "anti-nuclear and anti-American". It claims that Mr Blair opposed the actions taken by America in 1986 in response to Libyan terrorist activities, and had backed the removal of American nuclear missiles from Greenham Common.

Quoting from a Commons motion it added that he had criticised America's "evil campaign" against Nicaragua and "President Reagan's state-sponsored terrorism" in Central America.

The document goes on to detail the Shadow Cabinet's alleged "un-American activities". It says that four of them were members of a group called the

Supper Club which had opposed Britain's entry into the war against Iraq. "Mr Blair has seen fit to promote these MPs irrespective of their views. This is largely because he sympathises with them," it asserts.

Tory sources said there was nothing secretive about the document which would in any case have been distributed to Westminster journalists this week as Mr Blair prepares to leave on his visit.

However, the heading on the paper, "Blair's Un-American activities", inevitably evoked memories of the McCarthyite era. Labour officials attacked the "disgraceful smear" against Mr Blair, alleging that it would further

worsen the administration's relations with John Major. Clinton supporters remain irritated that senior Tories were sent to America to help in George Bush's failed re-election campaign four years ago.

Mr Blair will be attempting to convince Americans that Labour has buried its far left ideals and observers suggested yesterday that the document would have little impact on his visit.

John O'Sullivan, British-born editor of *National Review*, a right-wing magazine, described the allegations as "true but trivial". He was offered the 1½ pages by a Tory source but had paid scant attention to them.

"Nobody really believes Tony Blair is the man he was in the 1980s," he said.

In Mr O'Sullivan's view, the headline on the document about "un-American activities" was "sensationalistic". He said: "I would be equally cynical about the Tory attempts to spoil the Blair visit and Labour's indignation about it."

The Tory stunt had not caused any reaction in America by yesterday. There was only a news agency report from London on the political row caused by the document. No American newspapers or television news programmes had picked up on its allegations. They might, though, as the week wears on.

I'll vote Labour at General Election, says Archdeacon

Austin counters Tory attacks on Blair's beliefs

By PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

A SENIOR churchman threw his support behind Tony Blair yesterday after the Labour leader enraged Conservatives by linking politics and religion and saying that the Bible had taught him that he could never be a Tory.

The Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, said he would be voting Labour at the General Election and launched a blistering attack on the Government's handling of the Scott report and BSE. He suggested that "morality comes second" for Tory MPs.

The Labour leader, who set out his religious views in a newspaper article, was accused by one Conservative MP of "wearing God on his sleeve". Coming on the day that official research indicated that Mr Blair had succeeded in making the Labour Party more middle class than the Conservative Party, his remarks were more than senior Tory MPs could stomach.

They also prompted senior Labour figures to deny that he was arguing that "Christians should only vote Labour". Brian Mahoney, Conser-



Austin: hit at handling of Scott report and BSE

vative party chairman, said: "In terms of my Christian faith I start with Jesus and the Great Commandment, which is to love the God of the good with all your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength, and to love others as yourself. That commandment transcends party politics and I would be very cautious about any politician who sought to claim that his or her political party was the exclusive vehicle for Christian action."

Mr Blair, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, said his view of Christian values led him to oppose the narrow view of self-interest that Conservatism, particularly its modern, more right-wing form, represented. He insisted he was not pretending to be any better or less selfish than anyone else, or saying that Christians could only vote Labour.

"The key point is that Christianity is more than a one-to-one relationship between the individual and God, impor-

tant as that is. The relationship also has to be with the outside world," he wrote.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, was reported to be aware of Mr Blair's remarks but declined to comment. But the archdeacon sprang to Mr Blair's defence. Mr Austin said: "I welcome Tony Blair's comments. He wasn't saying that you couldn't be a Tory and a Christian. He was arguing that Christianity had swayed him against the extreme right wing and Mordam."

"I think that the Tory MPs who are having a go at Blair today may be feeling guilty about the way they have handled the Scott Report and the BSE crisis. They have acted in a way that has made me wonder if I can trust them. With them, it seems morality comes second. I tend to vote against parties in elections and the Conservatives have swayed me against them."

Mr Blair's words were bound to upset Tories already concerned by statistics apparently confirming Labour's claim to the middle class mantle. Labour's figures showed the party could now claim more young professionals and managers among its members than the Tories; 57 per cent of Labour members are in households earning £20,000 or more, and 30 per cent £30,000 or above. About 45 per cent of Tory members earn £20,000 or more and 25 per cent £30,000 or more.

Donald Dewar, Labour's chief whip, defended Mr Blair's commitment "which we all know and admire and he goes out of his way from the beginning to say that he is not arguing that Christians should only vote Labour".

He told GMTV's *Sunday Programme*: "The Labour



Blair: Christianity was more than a relationship with God, it also had to be with the outside world

Party is not trying to take over the Christian church, it would be ludicrous to say the least, but Tony has a strong religious position and moral views that have shaped his politics. But he does go on to make some points about self-interest and community which seem to me to be perfectly legitimate."

The Rev Andrew MacLellan, Convenor of the Church of Scotland, said he welcomed the fact politicians recognised politics was more than just economics, tax cuts and the pound in your pocket. On the same programme he said: "Politics is about learning to be a society and a community together. Learning about being a society together is a secular way of speaking about loving your neighbour."

Ann Widdecombe, a Home Office minister, said: "[Mr Blair] portrays Pontius Pilate as a man torn between right

and expediency. The Labour Party has consistently chosen expediency and I don't think Tony Blair is the best person to lecture us on religious morals."

David Wilshire, Tory MP for Spelthorne, who is Convenor of the Methodist Fellowship at the Commons, said no politician "should try to argue Christianity as justification for their ideology". He was offended by Mr Blair's remarks, which were "deeply hurtful" to many Christians.

Dame Jill Knight, a member of the Tory 1922 committee executive, said: "It has always seemed to me that when politicians feel they must claim Christian principles as a reason why people should vote for them, which is precisely what Mr Blair is doing, they have abandoned moral thought themselves."

Leading article, page 15

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Easter message of hope is not just for the church-goers says Carey

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

THE message of eternal hope inspired by the Resurrection was for all people and not just the committed church-goer, the Archbishop of Canterbury said yesterday in his Easter address.

It was the bedrock on which Christianity rested, Dr George Carey said at Canterbury Cathedral. Referring to a survey which showed that half the people of Britain believed in the Resurrection while only 34 per cent did not, he went on: "Those who thought our society was over-run by secularism and scepticism will be in for a surprise."

"It shows the deep deposits of belief beneath the surface. And there can be no doubt of the goodness and generosity of so many people, whether church-goers or not. We must avoid the trap of becoming fixated on evil."

There was a drift from explicit Christian values and hope, but Easter said that if we tried to live without God we would be powerless and constantly defeated by the chains of our sins, by the fickleness of our nature and

A congregation shaken by a sex scandal last year relaunched their services yesterday at a chapel in Sheffield's east end. Worshippers were drawn from remnants of the Nine O'Clock Service, broken up after women complained of being sexually assaulted by the leader, Chris Brain.

Yesterday's "quiet meditative service" was conducted by the Archdeacon of Sheffield, the Venerable Stephen Lowe. A Diocesan spokesman said the rock-style service could be re-introduced. "The scandal was about Chris Brain and not about reaching out to a generation lost to the church."

the weakness of our will. Christianity at its best is never comfortable, but if we open our hearts to the Resurrection message, we too shall find ourselves surprised by joy," he said, referring to C.S. Lewis's book *Surprised by Joy*, in which the writer told how he suddenly became convinced of the reality of God.

The Archbishop told Sir David Frost in the ITV programme *The Easter Enigma* that there was a bodily resurrection: "It wasn't a ghost, it wasn't an apparition, it wasn't merely appearances but there was a bodily resurrection. I believe it was bodily, but something happened to that body which made it quite extraordinary, which is al-

most a pattern of the resurrection body that we will all one day enjoy."

Asked if this was saying that in the eternal sense there could be a happy ending, he said: "Oh yes, definitely, definitely. When we look at this world in which we live, the Easter faith is a wonderful radiant message of hope."

The Archbishop said that those who had suffered in the Dunblane atrocity last month would be fortified by the certainty that they would see their loved ones again.

His message of hope was extended to those who suffered as a result of atrocities such as those at Dunblane and Srebrenica. Dr Carey said: "God has created a world in which He has given

us free will to misuse, free will to use creatively. That is a reality of the world."

"But it doesn't mean to say that He has abandoned the world. He's there. He's not an absentee landlord. He's with us, and He expects us to take responsibility for our actions. When we think about those atrocities and the human tragedies that happen to each one of us, we know that we are going to see our loved ones again."

□ In his first Easter Day sermon in York Minster, Dr David Hope, the Archbishop of York, said the bravery and courage shown by the people of Dunblane offered hope for the world. Despite the suffering felt by the whole community of the Scottish town, the courage of the headmaster and his staff and the emergency services gave cause for hope.

Dr Hope singled out the bravery of one boy for particular praise. "The little boy, still wounded and bandaged on the occasion of the Queen's visit to the hospital, who broke ranks and cut through the formalities and the protocol."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge attacks Howard reforms

A former Master of the Rolls yesterday accused Michael Howard of turning his *White Paper* on tougher sentencing into an election manifesto and mixing party politics with penal reform.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton said: "The *White Paper* read in part more as an election manifesto than it did as a serious study of penal policy."

He also attacked the way penal policy had swung from one extreme to the other in recent years and suggested that attempts had been made to undermine public respect for the judiciary.

Opera TB tests

More than 200 members of the opera house staff at Glyndebourne have been tested for tuberculosis after five cases of the disease among staff within three years. No further cases were found in the tests, ordered by East Sussex Health Authority, but contacts are still being traced. The Glyndebourne season will open as scheduled on May 17.

Driving charge

The Princess of Wales's mother has been charged with refusing to provide a breath sample after being stopped by police. Frances Shand Kydd, 60, could also face a drink-driving charge after the incident in Oshau, Strathclyde, on Friday. She lives near by on the island of Seil. She moved to the area after leaving her first husband, the late Earl Spencer.

Oriana sets sail

The *Oriana*, P&O's £200 million flagship liner, is due to return to the water today after spending two days in dry dock in Southampton being fitted with new propeller blades to stop her shaking at high speed. The cruise liner returned from her inaugural world cruise last week and is due to depart tonight for the Caribbean.

First point

Poole Town has narrowly escaped going into the record books as the worst soccer team in Britain after drawing 0-0 with Bashley at the weekend. The Beazer Homes Southern side halted a run of 39 consecutive defeats, equaling a record set 18 years ago by Stockport County, and gained its first point of the season.

Royal baby due



The Queen's niece, Lady Sarah Chatto, above, the former Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, is expecting a baby in July. The daughter of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, and her husband, Daniel Chatto, announced their news to members of the Royal Family at Windsor.

Star trek

The British explorer David Hempleman-Adams is to attempt the first televised walk to the magnetic North Pole. His 17-strong team will set out from Resolute Bay in northwest Canada next week, dragging 300kg (660lb) of TV and satellite transmission equipment on a specially-insulated sled.

Rickshaws roll

Britain's first rickshaw service started yesterday in Oxford with university students pedalling passengers on half-hour tours of the city. Twenty-five two-seater 21-year rickshaws have been imported from India to use for the £8 trips around the main historic sites. A similar service is planned for Cambridge later this year.

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Yugoslav refugee who fought Hitler and Tito is pulled from his car, beaten, kicked and robbed

British Serbs pray for war veteran killed by mugger

By Paul Wilkinson

PRAYERS were said in Serbian Orthodox churches across Britain yesterday for the Second World War veteran Stevan Popovic, who survived battles against Hitler and Tito only to die at the hands of a mugger in the country where he believed he had found sanctuary.

Mr Popovic, 74, was a leading figure in the British Serb community. He had led a group of Chetnik guerrillas against the Nazis and against Tito's Communists in a bitter civil war. When Tito triumphed Mr Popovic fled to England, homeless and with only £1 to his name. On Saturday the man who spent his later years helping refugees from the latest war in the former Yugoslavia died shortly after being beaten and robbed by a youth whom he had asked for directions in Chapeltown, Leeds.

Yesterday his widow, Dragica, 65, said: "I still cannot believe it has happened. I keep asking myself why. Stevan loved the people here, he trusted people. We were so happy here and we had so many English friends."

Mr Popovic, known as Pop, was a retired bus driver who lived in Oldham, Greater Manchester. He was in Leeds to collect a friend for a reunion of the Serbian Chetnik Association in Leicester, of which he was vice-president. Shortly after 8am he stopped to ask an Afro-Caribbean man in his late teens or early 20s the way to the hotel where his friend was waiting.

The youth abused him, pulled him from his Lada saloon, battered him to the ground and kicked him, breaking several of his ribs. He tore off Mr Popovic's jacket to steal his wallet, which contained £50, and pulled his watch and wedding ring from his hand. Stevan tried to grab the steering wheel as the attacker drove off in the Lada. He clung on for a short distance but was thrown clear.

Mr Popovic had emergency surgery at St James's University Hospital in Leeds, but the stress of the incident induced a fatal heart attack. Detective Superintendent Andrew Brown, of West Yorkshire, said the incident was being treated as murder.

Mr Popovic had many relatives in the former Yugoslavia. His sister was killed last year in their home town of Knin, which is now part of Croatia. Mrs Popovic said: "It makes it difficult that, with all the trouble there, he should die like this. Had it been from natural causes, I might have accepted it, but to die just for asking someone the way..."

"Society has changed so much. Everything has changed since we came here. I remember you could leave a purse full of money and some body would return it. Things must be changed, we cannot live in terror like this."

"He was a harmless old man who was looking forward to his day out with his friends. He was so looking forward to spending a traditional Serbian Orthodox family Easter at our home next week."

Mr Popovic was a graduate of the university in Split. He met his wife in a refugee camp in Germany in 1948 and came to England. They married in 1953 and had two sons, Milan, 41, an optical designer in Leicester, and Aleks, 40, a general manager with British Airways at Heathrow. They have two grandchildren, Joseph, 10, and Catherine, 8.

Milan Popovic was comforting his mother at her home yesterday. He said: "My feelings are just of great shock. This is the last thing I would expect to happen to someone like my father. He was so diplomatic and not the sort to go looking for trouble. He knew the area quite well but was looking for the hotel to meet his friend and may have been distracted. It is shocking that anyone should attack a man of over 70 in this way."

"My father was a Chetnik hero. He fought against Hitler when the Nazis invaded in 1941. He was an officer in the Royal Yugoslav Army and disappeared into the hills to fight a guerrilla war against the Ustase Nationalist Party when the Germans took over and disbanded the army. He travelled all over the country and suffered many hardships and much pain."

"For a man like him to live through what he lived through and to be cut down like this is disgusting. He had no enemies, not even among the Communists whom he saw whenever he returned to Yugoslavia. He was a tireless peace campaigner and worked hard to bring understanding of the Serbian cause in Yugoslavia."

Iljica Preocanin, secretary of the Chetnik Association, said: "He was a very civilised man, even in battle, and a man of principle. He always ensured whenever possible the protection of civilians. He was very much respected and I knew him as a very intelligent, caring and meek fellow."



Stevan Popovic with his granddaughter, Catherine. He became a bus driver after arriving in Britain in 1948

Streets haunted by fear of crime

By Paul Wilkinson

CHAPELTOWN, the district of Leeds where Stevan Popovic was killed, is an area of narrow, terraced Victorian streets to the north of the city centre. It suffers many of the problems associated with inner cities: racial tension, drugs and a high crime rate. Almost 80 per cent of its population is Afro-Caribbean.

Most of the prostitution in Leeds is run from its streets and it was there in the 1970s that Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, selected several of his victims. Michael Sams, the kidnapper of Stephanie Slater four years ago, also picked up his first victim, Julie Dart, from a street corner in Chapeltown in 1991.

Tamrez Kahn, a taxi-firm operator, said yesterday that the district was notorious for violent crime. "It is part and parcel of everyday life around here. There are six or seven violent attacks every day and most go unreported. Pensioners call a cab to take them 40 yards to the Post Office to collect their pensions."

Randolph Thind, who runs a sub-post office, said: "There are muggings and beatings in Chapeltown on a daily basis. Everyone is scared."

West Yorkshire Police say the situation in Chapeltown is not as bad as in parts of other British cities, but last year criminals felt bold enough to continue a gunfight over territory at the entrance of the emergency unit at the neighbouring St James's University Hospital, where one young man was shot.

Derek Fatchett, Labour MP for Leeds Central, said: "It is a dangerous precedent to set a pattern from one isolated incident. My view is that you cannot see the whole of Chapeltown in these terms."

The Prince of Wales recently visited the Chapeltown and Harehills Assisted Learning Computer School, set up by parents concerned by the poor academic standards of many Afro-Caribbean children. The privately funded project has been responsible for a significant improvement in their attainments.



Dragica Popovic with her son, Milan, yesterday and with her husband soon after coming to Britain



Dragica Popovic with her son, Milan, yesterday and with her husband soon after coming to Britain

Police fear twins were murdered

By Stewart Tindler

IDENTICAL twins whose bodies were pulled from a north London canal within yards of each other were yesterday at the centre of a murder investigation. One brother had been beaten to death and wrapped in a blanket. The other died from unknown causes.

As divers searched the Regent's Canal yesterday for clues to the deaths of Christopher and Anthony Langford, 38, police were waiting to confirm whether they were dealing with a family row or a double murder.

The investigation began on March 26 when the body of Christopher Langford was found in the canal. Last Wednesday the body of Anthony was dragged from the same canal. It had been in the water for some days.

The two brothers came originally from Bedford and lived in hostels in the Islington area. Both had minor convictions for public order and drinking offences.

Royal Family to rescue as horses stampede

By Stephen Farrell

THE Royal Family joined a five-hour alert with police and the Household Cavalry when 75 ponies stampeded from a late-night fire at the Guards Polo Club stables in Windsor Great Park.

The Duke and Duchess of York left their former matrimonial home at nearby Sunninghill Park to give first aid to a woman who suffered cuts when one of 30 terrified animals that ran through the town centre was fatally injured colliding with a car. They then helped to capture horses in Windsor Great Park.

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales left Windsor Castle - itself hit by fire in 1992 - to help to calm the horses late on Saturday night. A spokesman said they had gone to satisfy themselves the situation was under control.

One officer in Windsor, Sergeant Andrew Morrow, said: "I was on King's Road and it was like the Grand National. There were more

than 30 horses charging up the road in complete darkness."

The blaze had started on Saturday night in a hay barn at the polo club, where the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales are members. The head groom and his staff decided to release the ponies - some worth up to £20,000 - fearing they would be trapped by the smoke and flames.

The animals fled in darkness, to be hunted eventually by 100 police RSPCA inspectors, local Horse Watch members, AA patrols and one officer and five men from the Household Cavalry Regiment at Combermere Barracks.

Two police helicopters with thermal-imaging cameras were called out. Several police cars were damaged by fleeing horses and roads had to be sealed off to prevent accidents.

Many of the horses were found grazing safely in fields and gardens miles from the scene. Three people received hospital treatment for minor injuries. Among them was Jo Hughes, 18, who had been helped by the Yorks while she awaited an ambulance. She was a passenger in a Ford Orion when two horses collided with the side of the car and a third tried to climb over the roof. She said: "It was horrific. They just ran straight at us. You could smell the horses in the car."

Prince Andrew bandaged Ms Hughes's bleeding hand in his Range Rover. Ms Hughes, from Crowthorne, Berkshire, and her boyfriend were taken to hospital but later released.

The RSPCA said the pony was fatally injured and had to be put down. It belonged to Rick Stowe, a member of the Australian polo team. None of the other animals suffered serious injuries.

The Polo club's chairman, Major General Bernard Gordon Lennox, praised his staff. "They had to get the horses out, they were so frightened. They tried to lead one or two to safety but suddenly they had to let them all go," he said.

The cause of the blaze was being investigated last night.

Mother who delayed cure in clear

By a Staff Reporter

A WOMAN who risked death by turning down chemotherapy to let her unborn child live has been told she is clear of cancer.

Sonya Short, 29, a nurse from Blaydon, Tyne and Wear, decided against the treatment to cure a breast tumour 12 weeks into her pregnancy because she knew it would kill her baby. She had her right breast removed and delayed taking powerful anti-cancer drugs until after giving birth to Charlie, six months after the disease was detected.

The baby was born three weeks ago, weighing 7lb 13oz, and Mrs Short finally started a course of tamoxifen to combat the malignant cells. Mrs Short and her husband Kevin, 30, have now been told that their life-or-death gamble has succeeded.

The lump had been found during an ante-natal check-up. The couple, who also have a two-year-old daughter, Molly, had no doubts about protecting Charlie while he was in the womb.



Sonya Short, who has beaten cancer, with Charlie

Mrs Short underwent a mastectomy last September, and had to wait until Charlie was born before she could continue her treatment. Mrs Short, who nurses terminally ill patients at a hospice, had been told her pregnancy would make it easier for the cancer cells to enter her bloodstream.

After Mrs Short had a bone and liver scan, a cancer-specialist nurse from the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne telephoned last week to tell her she was free of the disease.

Cuddling Charlie, Mrs Short said: "I'm ecstatic - I've been given the all-clear and I've got a lovely baby boy. I've been given my life back. I'm only just beginning to realise what it really means."

"Up until now we've lived week by week and not dared think too much about the future. One of my worries was that I might not be around to see Molly and Charlie start school. Now there's no reason why I shouldn't."

"I have no regrets. I don't think I could have lived with myself if I'd had an abortion so I could have the treatment."

Mrs Short will have to continue taking tamoxifen for five years to ensure the cancer does not return. "I'll never take my life for granted again," she said.

Mr Short said: "I'm so proud of Sonya."

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Blunkett returns to woo teachers with school repairs plan

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

DAVID BLUNKETT made a triumphant return to the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers yesterday. A year after he was barracked by militants, he promised a new deal between Labour and the banks to repair "crumbling" schools.

At last year's conference, in Blackpool, the Shadow Education Secretary had to take refuge after being pursued by angry hard-left teachers. Yesterday his speech won loud applause from delegates.

Mr Blunkett's reception contrasted with the tension when Gillian Shephard addressed the conference in Cardiff on Saturday. The speech of the Education and Employment Secretary was punctuated by muted heckling and laughter as she defended the Government's record.

In one of his most assured performances as education spokesman, Mr Blunkett reaf-

Parents should lose the right to withdraw their children from lessons about Aids and HIV, delegates argued. The conference narrowly rejected appeals from the executive to drop the motion, which calls for gay and lesbian groups to be established in every area and pledges support for teachers who "come out". Delegates want the union to hold an annual lesbian and gay teachers' conference with confidential enrolment.

He affirmed his party's intention to scrap nursery vouchers and halt any plans to increase selective schooling. But he used the speech to outline an innovative scheme to tackle the backlog of school repairs.

Groups of schools would negotiate repair and maintenance programmes with a consortium of banks and other private firms which would

raise the capital and take responsibility for the work. Money currently devoted to maintenance would be handed over to the consortium, which would make a profit from the resulting efficiency savings in contracts of up to 20 years.

Mr Blunkett claimed that this would enable hundreds of millions of pounds to go into school premises each year without increasing public-sector borrowing. "By pooling resources and working in partnership, we can ensure that sound advice is available, bureaucracy is minimised and private lenders are sufficiently confident to take part."

The scheme differs from the Government's Private Finance Initiative because groups of schools or whole education authorities would be involved, rather than single institutions. Mr Blunkett said the banks considered lending to individual schools a "non-starter".

The deterioration of many school buildings has been one of the main issues at this

year's teaching union conferences. The NUT is threatening walkouts in many schools next term if a national audit of premises finds buildings to be unsafe. An emergency motion at the conference condemned the Government's measures to deregulate school premises. Labour has developed the scheme in discussions with Hambros Bank and is enter-

ing talks with the British Bankers' Association.

The £3.2 billion backlog of repairs identified by a recent survey could be cleared in a "reasonable period of time", Mr Blunkett said. Labour could not promise instant improvements but would commit itself to a decade of investment in education.

Doug McAvoy, the general

secretary of the NUT, welcomed the plan but said Labour had to be prepared to carry out the repair programme even if the scheme did not work. If necessary, this should extend to raising taxes.

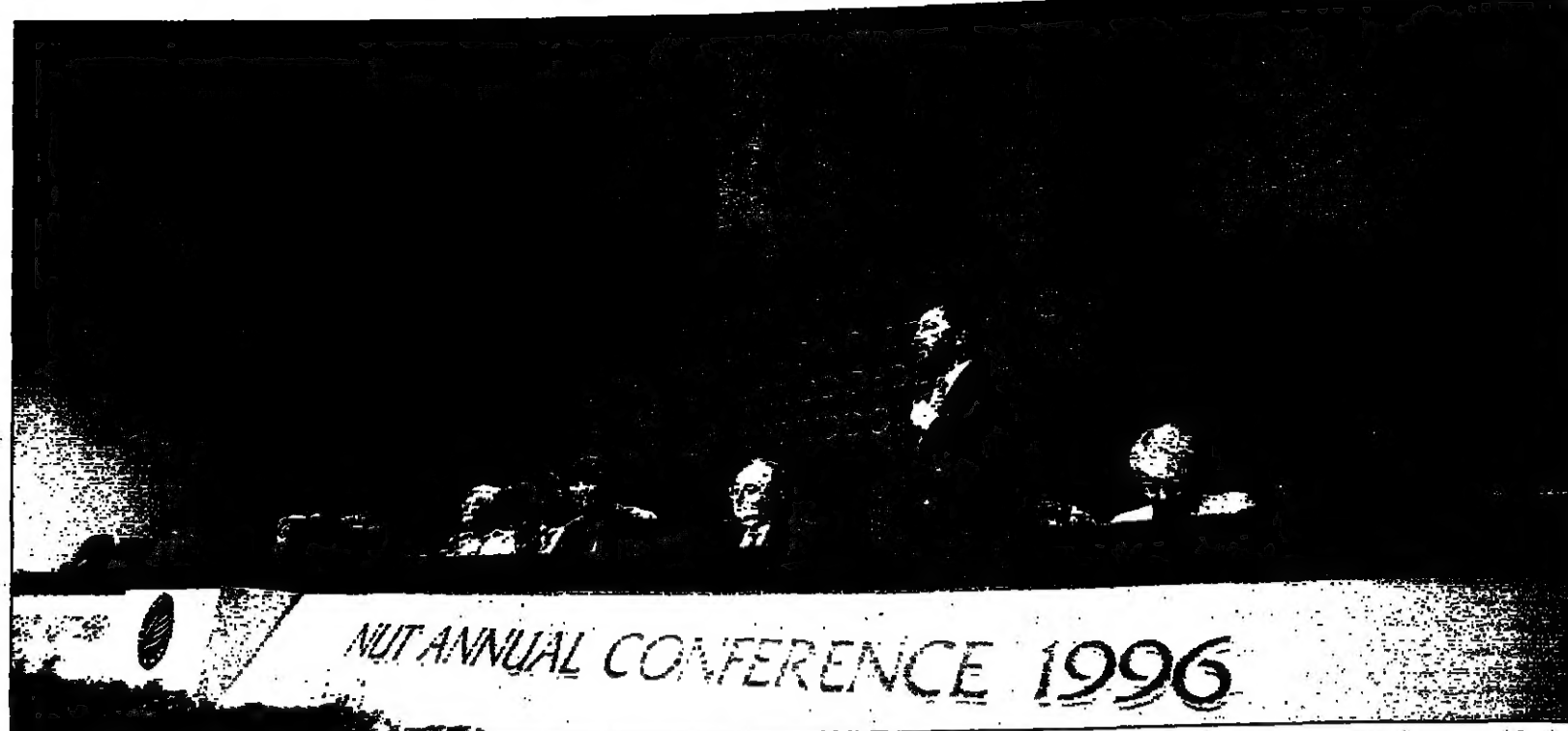
Graham Lane, who chairs the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, said local authorities would be thrilled by the

scheme. "It is a rare example of imaginative thinking to solve a serious problem and I am convinced it would work."

More than 600 schools still have outside lavatories and 750,000 children are taught in temporary classrooms, according to the latest survey of school premises. A report by the two main local government associations found that

schools were suffering an "appalling level of neglect".

The need to enhance capital spending has long been recognised, but restraints on public expenditure have frustrated education ministers' plans. The local authorities' report said the amount they had been allowed to spend on capital projects had been cut by 22 per cent in four years.



David Blunkett addressing the conference yesterday. His warm reception was in contrast to the heckling endured by Gillian Shephard

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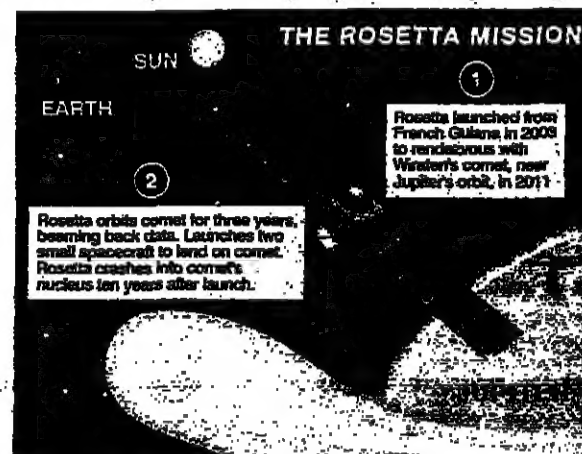
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Rosetta flies a million miles to seek comet's heart of stone

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

SMALL craft are to attempt to land on an orbiting comet as part of a unique space mission. Experiments will be carried out on samples taken from Wirtanen's comet by a tiny landing craft's robot arm and the results relayed to Earth. At the end of the mission, with Wirtanen's comet approaching the sun, the mother ship will move to 50,000 km behind the comet's tail. From there it will fly slowly into the dust and solar wind exuding from the comet, taking measurements and eventually crashing into Wirtanen's nucleus, ten years after launch.

Details of the mission, which will rendezvous with Wirtanen's comet early next century, are expected to take centre stage at a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society in Liverpool this week.

Researchers believe that if the project is successful it will shed new light on the origins of the Universe and the planets. The Giotto space probe had a rendezvous with Halley's comet a few years ago but no space craft has landed on a comet.

Until recently there were doubts over whether the experiment would get off the ground after Britain pressed for funding cuts at the European Space Agency. But Peter Bond, space science adviser to the society, said yesterday that the Government's Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council had found money for the venture.

"I think this will be an amazing mission," Mr Bond said. "It will be the first time we've ever followed a comet for millions of miles, watching how it develops as it gets closer to the sun, and the first time anything has landed on a comet."

The probes will hopefully soft-land on the nucleus and measure the surface, how hard it is, what it's made of and what gases come out of it."

The spacecraft, Rosetta, is named after the Egyptian town where, in 1799, the Rosetta stone was discovered. It is scheduled to blast off from French Guiana in January 2003. The main landing probe will be a



Champollion: first to decipher Rosetta stone

45kg craft named Champollion, after Jean-François Champollion, the Frenchman who made the first complete decipherment of the Rosetta stone.

British universities and institutes, including Sheffield University, the Open University, Imperial College and the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, will have instruments on board. Rosetta will travel through space for eight years before intercepting the comet 700 million kilometres from earth, near Jupiter's orbit. Mission planners will use the voyage to pass two asteroids, 3840 Mumukshubell and 2530 Shipka, 300 and then 2,100 days after launch.

On approaching Wirtanen's comet, Rosetta will fire thrusters to slow its approach so that it orbits around the comet's head, or nucleus. Here it will track the comet for about three years, sending data back to Earth.

It was hoped that the Rosetta mission would bring a piece of the comet back to Earth but budget constraints have altered the plans. Instead, two small probes will be dropped from the mother craft onto Wirtanen's surface.

The Champollion probe has been built by Nasa and CNES, the French space agency. The other, RoLand (or Rosetta Lander), was built by German companies with help from European institutes, including the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

While Champollion is designed to last a matter of days, RoLand should function for several months.

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Mystery of 'Officer in the Tower'

Files to solve riddle of spy who loved German women

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

A SIXTY-YEAR mystery involving high treason, sexual obsession and a mysterious blonde is expected to be solved soon with the release of secret Government papers about Norman Baillie-Stewart, the last Briton to be imprisoned in the Tower of London.

A lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders, Baillie-Stewart was twice accused of betraying his country, once for selling secrets to the Germans for £90 in 1933 and again after making pro-German broadcasts during the war. In the secrets trial, he claimed that the money was in fact given to him by a Berlin blonde called Marie Louise in return for sexual favours.

He was sent to the Tower after being described at his court martial as "a pathological case with a fixation for German women".

Thirty years after he died in a Dublin bar in June 1966, the Home Office is to release the papers about the "Officer in the Tower", in June or July. Historians hope they will reveal the truth about the identity of Marie Louise and clear up claims by the War Office, always denied by Baillie-Stewart, that he had made a full confession.

The papers should also throw light on the farcical circumstances in which Baillie-Stewart was forced to take exercise at the Tower in full public view. For six weeks in 1933, crowds queued to see the tall and strikingly handsome young traitor - said to be irresistible to women - parade daily in full Highland dress, escorted by an armed Coldstream Guards officer.

The son of a distinguished Indian army officer, Baillie-Stewart had trained at the Royal Naval College, Dart-

mouth, and then at Sandhurst. He won decorations for service on the North-West Frontier and was thought to be a model officer until his arrest at the age of 23.

Details of his love life gripped public interest as Baillie-Stewart claimed at his court martial that money sent from Germany was a gift from a grateful 22-year-old fair-headed woman, Marie Louise, to whom he had made love in a public park in Berlin.

At one point in his trial, the judge was moved to remind the court that Baillie-Stewart was being tried for breaches of the Official Secrets Act, not immorality.

On his release in 1937, the disgraced Baillie-Stewart went to live in Germany, where he applied for citizenship. His love affair was always with the German nation, and German women in particular, rather than Nazism. He claimed that his activities in helping Jews to escape from Austria earned him the nickname "the Scarlet Pimpernel".

Yet by 1940 he had begun the original "Germany calling" broadcasts as the first "Lord Haw-Haw" before William Joyce - who was hanged as a traitor in 1945 - took over the role. Baillie-Stewart was arrested some months after the end of the war in the Austrian Tyrol. He was dressed in traditional local garb of leather shorts, white stockings, embroidered braces and a green forestier's jacket. At his second trial he insisted that he had applied for German nationality in 1938 and could therefore not be charged with aiding the enemy, but the court ruled that no change of nationality was valid during wartime. Sentencing him to another five years, the trial

judge told him: "You are one of the worst citizens your country has ever produced."

After his release, Baillie-Stewart settled in Dublin where for a time he made a living selling cheap Wild West stories. Still debonair and full of public school charm, in 1950 he married a beautiful Irish shopgirl half his age. He settled down to a life of commerce and shortly before he died made money designing a ship for the Harland and Wolff yard.

Towards the end of his life, Baillie-Stewart claimed that Marie Louise did not exist. Yet over the years, several people claimed to have found her. A Labour MP told the House of Commons in 1933 that she was a Berlin Jewess, Olga Israel, who did not come forward at Baillie-Stewart's trial because she feared the wrath of Hitler. Shortly afterwards, the French secret service claimed to have arrested her on espionage charges in Finland and said that she was, in fact, a Russian. After the Second World War, a British agent claimed to have found her still living in Germany.



From left, Frances Borden, Charlotte Sorapure, Sarah Raphael, Sarah Florence and Harriet Barber in front of Raphael's *Sometimes A River II*

Outback vision puts artist in the frame for £36,000

THE Australian Outback has inspired the painter Sarah Raphael to win Britain's biggest art prize. The 35-year-old daughter of the novelist Frederic Raphael led the all-women group of finalists in the £36,000 NatWest 90s Prize For Art.

Her winning works, combining the figurative and abstract, include a three-piece series titled *Sometimes A River*, based on her six-week obser-

ventions of the Outback, and *Gibber Desert Constellation*, which depicts a stony desert without sky.

Raphael, a mother of two, from Camberwell, southeast London, is best known for her portraits. She said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to win the prize. You never expect to win things, but you have nothing to lose by entering competitions. What matters is that you feel you are getting

better." Her work can be seen in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

The second prize of £10,000 was won by Frances Borden, 25, from Bampton, Devon. Charlotte Sorapure, 27, from Blackheath, south London, and Sarah Florence, 32, from Norwich, shared the £5,000 award for third place. A student

award of £1,000 went to Harriet Barber, 27, from Blandford, Dorset. Two watercolours by the Prince of Wales went on public display yesterday at the family home of his children's nanny, Tiggy Legge-Bourke. The Prince is one of 30 artists exhibiting at Peasmarsh, in Crickhowell, Powys. Neither he nor Miss Legge-Bourke were at the exhibition yesterday.

"MARIE LOUISE" THE GIRL OF INSCRUTABLE MYSTERY

Her Bank Note Gifts to Young British Officer

Amazing Court-Martial Story of Love-Making

DENIAL OF STATE'S BETRAYAL

"Inscrutable mystery" that kept nation guessing: how the News of the World reported the case

Coma victims 'to replace animals in experiments'

By Adrian Lise

MEDICAL experiments could eventually be carried out on patients with severe brain damage instead of animals, according to a professor of medical ethics. David Morton of Birmingham University envisaged the day when people in long-term comas, with no chance of recovery, could be used for research.

There have been recent cases where patients in a persistent vegetative state have recovered after having been diagnosed as beyond help.

Professor Morton, an adviser to the Government on laboratory animal research, said it was feasible that people could carry cards which allowed their organs and body tissue to be used for research as well as donation.

In those cases where food and water had been withdrawn the medical profession would have to tackle the possibility of experiments beginning while the patient was still alive. "I am not advocating anything. I am reflecting what will come about as a real, practical situation and what may come about in the next few years."

He said experimentation was already taking place on human volunteers. "Very, very rarely something goes wrong and these people may die and one might argue therefore it would be better and you would do less harm if you did the work on people who you

have decided to withdraw food and water from rather than healthy human volunteers. So before you pull the plug, rather than cremate them, tissue and blood could be taken."

Such experiments would give more accurate information than using animals, Professor Morton said.

His vision of the future provoked strong opposition. The Provost of Birmingham, The Very Reverend Peter Berry, said: "We are talking about human beings. Even if they are helpless, they are humans and certainly should not be termed as 'vegetative'."

Ann Rogers, whose son James suffered severe brain damage in a car crash in 1987 and has not spoken or moved since, said the prospect of experiments on living people was "appalling". Doctors have said that James, 27, will never recover. His family refuse to accept their diagnosis.

Mrs Rogers, from Northamptonshire, said: "In the past few months, there have been reports of people diagnosed as being in persistent vegetative states recovering and saying they had been aware of what was going on."

"The only people whose opinions count are the families of those people. There are about 1,000 people in this condition. We will always fight for James's right to live. We can't believe he is a vegetable, unaware of what is going on."

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Lawyers join scheme to represent hard-up clients

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME of Britain's leading lawyers are joining a scheme to represent hard-up but worthy clients for nothing. The first case chosen for this treatment is that of a woman who has been ordered to return a 10-year-old Zulu boy living with her family to his natural parents in South African township.

The lawyers for the woman will be Allan Levy, QC, and Maggie Rae, a solicitor with Mishcon De Reya, solicitors to the Princess of Wales. The case forms part of a six-month pilot scheme, called *pro bono*

(for the public good), to be launched formally by the Bar Council next month.

The Court of Appeal ordered last month that the Zulu boy, who cannot be identified, must return to South Africa four years after the white woman, who now lives in Maida Vale, west London, brought him to England for adoption. Lord Justice Neill rejected the idea of adoption and noted that the boy, known only as P, had lost his ability to speak Zulu and that his links with his homeland were growing more tenuous.

Mr Levy succeeded last week in obtaining a stay of the order until

the end of this month and hopes to persuade the House of Lords to grant a hearing before then.

The Bar already runs a Free Representation Unit, in which Bar students take on tribunal cases for free. Individual chambers, specialist Bar groups, regional circuits of barristers and City solicitors have all launched free schemes, but this is the first to be run at Bar Council level.

It will draw upon top lawyers who are used to high earnings. Normally a partner in a City solicitors' practice would charge £200 an hour and a Queen's Counsel working on a court hearing could be on a brief

fee of between £10,000 and £50,000, depending on the complexity of the case, plus a daily top-up fee of £2,500.

The scheme, which is not intended to be a substitute for legal aid, will have a full-time administrator and will operate from rooms in Gray's Inn. About £20,000 has been raised by the profession to launch the scheme, which will qualify for charitable status.

Other top barristers who have signalled their support include Peter Goldsmith, QC, a former Bar chairman and reputedly one of the highest earners at the commercial Bar. He said: "I believe there is a

strong moral argument that those lawyers who can afford to commit their time should be prepared to provide some *pro bono* work."

A management committee will be set up to sift applications for support and to establish ground rules for the kind of cases that will qualify.

Mr Goldsmith was responsible for contacting Mr Levy to take on the case of the Zulu boy after another solicitor, Beverley Golden, highlighted his plight in a Sunday newspaper. She said she was delighted that the lawyers were to seek leave to appeal. After the Court of Appeal hearing, at which it was ordered that the boy should have no

contact with the white family for one year, lawyers advised that there was no chance of an appeal.

Mr Goldsmith added: "Legal aid must still be the principal means of providing legal services to those who cannot afford to pay. Recent cuts in eligibility have seen hundreds of thousands drop out of the legal-aid safety net."

"A small profession like the Bar could never plug that gap, but what it can do is to tackle specific and acute instances of potential injustice by offering its services for the public good."

Law, page 33

Rabies law traps sad dogs and Englishmen who went out for new life in the sun

Pet subject of the ex-pats threatens to cost Tory seats

FROM BILL FROST IN ANTIBES

AN estimated 100,000 British expatriates on the Côte d'Azur are united as never before in a campaign which should worry John Major. The lotus eaters who retired to the sun are usually Tory postal voters, but they say the Prime Minister will suffer at the next election for condemning their pets to permanent exile or death in quarantine.

They are determined to overturn or flout British anti-rabies laws which prevent them bringing their animals home for short visits. The average £1,500 cost of the required six-month quarantine is attacked as prohibitive, and at least ten animals are said to die behind the wire

every four weeks. The case of Quintus and Bendeux is typical. Despite their pampered Mediterranean lifestyle, the two pedigree Australian terriers (bred in Worcester, formative years spent in Chelsea) are really missing England, according to their owners.

But British law says that they and an estimated 200,000 four-legged British exiles in the South of France might be rabid. It's the hottest issue in a once steadfastly Tory ex-pat community now threatening to vote Labour.

Michael and Judy Sabey brought Quintus and Bendeux from Chelsea to a palatial home in an exclusive corner of Saint Laurent du Var outside

Nice five years ago. At first sight, all four give the impression that they have never endured a moment's worry or irritation since leaving London.

Two minutes' conversation with the couple is enough to shatter the shimmering illusion. They claim that John Major hates animals and they threaten to use their votes to dish him at the next general election. The number of ex-pat votes is enough to make a difference in some constituencies. As the dogs gambol on the grass, their owners telephone Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians in the hope of gaining support for a legal change.

"None of the British pets out here has rabies. They've all been inoculated," Mrs Sabey said. "Why can't we take our dogs and cats home for holidays like Easter, Christmas or, for that matter, any other time of the year?"

"Britain seems to allow some very unsavoury human specimens to come in when my perfect dogs are kept out. And the boys really need a trip to a hairdresser, a British hairdresser."

There is no doubting the strength of feeling among British expatriates over the issue. According to the letters column of *Riviera Reporter*, the English-language magazine for the Côte d'Azur, the "Passports for Pets" campaign has united the ex-pats against the Tories.

"There are about 100,000 of us in this position and we are all angry, very angry," says Mr Sabey, who took his wife and "the boys" to the sun after doing rather well in London as a chartered surveyor. "Some have already broken the law

and smuggled their pets home rather than leave them pining in quarantine. It's quite easy if you know how."

The Sabeyes and their numerous allies in the South of France point to the House of Commons all-party agriculture select committee report of October 1994 which unanimously recommended a review of the existing law. The committee said that dogs and cats should be positively identified by microchip or tattoo; have spent at least six months in an approved country before coming to Britain; be vaccinated from the age of three

months against rabies and be blood-tested by an approved laboratory to ensure the shots conferred immunity.

Quintus and Bendeux qualify on every count. So too do the majority of British-owned pets on the Côte d'Azur, say the Sabeyes and their army of friends.

The ex-pats have powerful allies at home to lobby for them. The great and the good — peers, vets and millionaire dog-lovers — have all added their support to the "Passports for Pets" campaign.

However, the Government shelved the committee's re-

port. "Major's unwillingness to listen to reason condemns thousands of pets to death and stress-related illness while in quarantine when their owners take them home for good," said Mrs Sabey.

Her husband added: "All the Britons out here are obsessive about this subject, and with very good reason too. It's absolutely scandalous. British laws on rabies were made in the 1920s before a vaccine was available."

Mrs Sabey seethes with rage that her "boys" are condemned to quarantine or exile. "I am sure that John

Major is not a dog man, if anything I would imagine he is a budgie fancier. But he should realise that there was once a staunch block of Tory voters out here who would now vote New Labour or even Socialist Workers' Party if they backed a change in the quarantine law."

"This is not just an offence against dogs, it is also a breach of our human rights. We made that point in a 2,000-signature petition I presented at 10 Downing Street."

"Major never even bothered to reply — just a deafening silence. How bloody rude."



Michael Sabey and his wife Judy with their dogs: "All the Britons out here are obsessive about this subject"

LOVE ME, LOVE MY BEST FRIEND

MORE than 40 per cent of dog owners would rather spend a weekend with their pet than with their partners or friends, according to a survey.

As they grow older, humans become even more passionate about their dogs: almost 60 per cent of dog-owning pensioners said they loved their pets more than their partners. At any age, almost half of women owners put their dog before the men in their life.

The survey of 2,000 adults, carried out for a dog-food manufacturer, showed that nine out of ten of those questioned felt that dogs had a much happier existence than their owners. Dogs take priority at feeding time, too: about 60 per cent said that the family dog was likely to be fed long before



the family itself. David Watson, consultant vet for the company, said: "In an increasingly stressful world, the family dog is a blissful constant. Pertinent to the hectic 90s is finding that one in three dog owners believe their dogs help to reduce stress."

Owners said that gaining a dependable friend was the main reason to keep a dog.

Magic pill for flagging sex life some years off

"ISN'T there a pill I could take, doctor?" is the usual reaction from middle-aged or older men when offered a penile injection to restore a sex-life that has withered for want of an erection.

The hope that a pill will become available for these male patients has been boosted by reports that the long-awaited results of a British trial of a drug, sildenafil, made by Pfizer, is to be presented at the meeting of the American Urological Association next month. It will still be some years before the pill is generally available.

Neither an injection of Caverject, the best available treatment at the moment for treatable impotence, nor presumably a dose of sildenafil



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

will correct impotence if the penile mechanics have irretrievably broken down, either because of failure of the blood supply — the coronary arteries are not the only ones to become furred with advancing years — or because of leaking valves in the corpora cavernosa, the cylinders in the penis which become engorged with blood during sexual excite-

ment. The Pfizer trial of sildenafil has been taking place for some years but occasionally word slips out from a clinic in Kent or Sussex of its apparent success and the consequent optimism of both the doctors and their patients. The drug is taken about an hour before intercourse is expected to take place and enhances only the effect of

sexual excitement. If the evening does not follow the expected pattern and a forgotten meeting with the parochial church council is remembered, there is no embarrassment from visual evidence of a frustrated desire.

Caverject — prostaglandin E — which relaxes the smooth muscles within the corpora cavernosa, is made by Upjohn. The injection is given into the corpora cavernosa through a very fine needle held at right-angles.

Patients assure me that it is virtually painless but produces a response that recalls memories of their youth. Unlike the erections produced by earlier intrapenile injections, those produced by Caverject usually wear off within an

hour and problems from priapism, a persistent erection lasting for more than four hours, are exceptionally rare.

Other methods of delivering prostaglandin E have been tried; there was success in using it as a cream designed to be squeezed into the urethra, but despite an encouraging hospital trial there are no plans to market it commercially.

Another pharmaceutical firm is well advanced in its plans to introduce a cream containing a vasodilator drug that will improve the penile blood supply when it is applied externally to the skin. Initial results from the use of this cream have been good and it is expected that it will go into manufacture.

Hepatitis fear prompts call for patients to use own blood

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

THE discovery of a new strain of hepatitis led to a call yesterday for patients to use their own blood in transfusions. Hepatitis G is the latest virus to be identified in human beings and is probably carried by more than 800,000 people in the United Kingdom.

Lesley Kay, a leading consultant haematologist, said new diseases were always being found which required extra screening of blood samples, and suggested that patients have their own blood removed and stored before operations if only a little was required.

"I am a big advocate of having your own blood because we are forever chasing the next virus," Dr Kay, of Medical Diagnostic Laborato-

ries, which serves several major private London hospitals, said.

"What is the next danger from blood? We had HIV-1 then we discovered there was a variant, HIV-2. We had Hepatitis C then we realised there was a variant, Hepatitis G. With worldwide travel, sexual freedom and drug abuse we are going to get more of these viruses."

Blood in Britain is already screened for syphilis, Hepatitis B and C and two types of HIV. Foreign countries use more stringent tests for Hepatitis B and also look for HTLV-1, a virus that can lead to cancer. Hepatitis G has been identified in the past year and there are already calls for screening. Already some parts

of Britain, particularly in the North of England, are using surgery techniques in which the results of bleeding can be returned to the patient. In some surgery, such as knee replacements, bleeding happens when the tourniquet is removed.

Early studies of Hepatitis G suggest it is carried by at least 1.5 per cent of blood donors. It appears to be related to Hepatitis C, which is associated with a spectrum of liver problems including cancer. The effects of the new virus are still unknown but, since it seems more widespread than C, it probably is less dangerous. Scientists suspect that it has been in the human population for thousands of years but is only now being recognised.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man in care starved to death

A pensioner who was visited three times a day, seven days a week by social workers who helped to prepare his meals starved to death in his ward-controlled flat.

Lloyd Wilkinson, 79, a bomb-disposal expert in the Second World War, was found dead in bed at his home in Bedford the day after his last visit.

The cause of death was given as starvation at an inquest opened and adjourned by Bedfordshire coroner David Morris. An internal inquiry has been started by Bedfordshire Social Services.

Union ballot tied

A ballot over industrial action among members of the Communication Workers Union in the South West ended in an 862-all draw. It is the first known case of a dead heat in a big ballot in the history of the union movement.

Cost of dying up

Funeral costs have risen by 38 per cent to an average of £1,523 over the past three years, almost six times the inflation rate. Burials in the South East cost 22 per cent more than average and half as much again as the South West, the cheapest region.

Hilton evacuated

Five hundred guests and staff were evacuated from the Hilton hotel in Park Lane, central London, after a fire in a guest bedroom. The fire broke out in a suite on the 22nd floor, causing smoke damage to adjoining rooms. There were no injuries.

Spy base for sale

The American surveillance base at Brawdy, Dyfed, is being put up for sale by its owner, the Ministry of Defence. The seven-acre site, surrounded by security fencing and watchtowers, was used by the Americans for more than 20 years.

Called to account

BBC managers are being sent on two-day training breaks at hotels to learn how to use a new telephone system. But the corporation claims the exercise saves licence-payers' money because it avoids paying the phone company to run the system.

Five strike lucky

Five ticket holders share this week's National Lottery rollover jackpot of £21.2 million, each winning £4.2 million. A further 40 winners receive £84,210 each for matching five numbers plus the bonus ball. Winning numbers, page 18

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BOOK OFFER

At a Service Near You

Ruth Gledhill, religious affairs correspondent of *The Times*, visited nearly 200 places of worship for the series in Weekend. At your service, and this book is a collection of 63 of those engaging articles.

Not quite the ecclesiastical equivalent of *The Good Pub Guide*, but Gledhill does assess the quality of the leadership, architecture, sermon, music, liturgy, after-service care and spiritual high at the churches she visits.

She describes the atmosphere, the sort of people who attend, the style of the worship, the quality of preaching and anything that particularly strikes her, even the coffee.

As the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, Gledhill has been attending church regularly since childhood and the experience of visiting so many has had an impact on her own faith.

"I began the series as a churchgoing Anglican with fairly traditionalist views," she says. "The experience has made me more liberal in belief and more open to evangelical styles of worship, in particular the joy and movement that comes with some of the best spiritual songs."

Ruth believes churches are more than places of worship. They are also community centres in a world where neighbourhood communities are vanishing. They provide an oasis of peace in a noisy environment. The best churches preach faith as the foundation for true healing and happiness and impart to her the sense of God's presence.

At a Service Near You makes enjoyable reading. Anyone who wants to find out about a church in an area they are visiting, or simply curious about local churches, will find it extremely helpful.

Readers can get a copy of *At a Service Near You: British Churches — The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* for only £6.49 (normal price £7.99) including postage and packing and with an inserted book plate signed by the author.

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Troops in South Korea placed on high alert

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMERICAN troops in South Korea were put on high alert at the weekend, as a third incursion of North Korean soldiers into the demilitarised zone yesterday raised tensions in the divided peninsula.

About 300 heavily armed soldiers entered the joint security area at the Panmunjom border crossing in 12 lorries. They began to leave more than two hours later. The violation of the armistice, which ended the Korean War in 1953, came after two incursions on Friday and Saturday. After the first, President Kim Young Sam of South Korea ordered "heightened, iron-fist" defence. Under the armistice, only 35 military police from each side may enter the 2½-mile-wide demilitarised zone.

Each incursion was larger than the last, taking place in the evening and lasting about two hours. On Saturday, soldiers carrying rifles and machineguns entered the buffer zone in nine lorries, but did no more than demonstrate their defiance. On Friday, 120



North Korean soldiers stayed in the area for two hours.

South Korea announced a state of emergency around the joint security area, and some units were ordered to "prepare to deal with a possible emergency". They are on the highest alert in 15 years. President Kim called the first incursion a dangerous escalation of Pyongyang's provocations, while a North Korean newspaper accused the South of preparing an invasion and said the peninsula was on "the eve of war". The paper said North Korea would be forced to take a counter-measure. United Nations forces along

the frontier said there was no immediate threat from the North. The United States, which has 37,000 troops in South Korea, announced increased surveillance after the first incursion, but otherwise responded in a low-key manner. A statement from the UN Command and the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command said yesterday that they were "concerned" by the latest events. However, it added: "The combined and allied leadership see no other evidence of movement of troops or other military that would suggest any imminent threat."

James Laney, the American Ambassador to Seoul, met Gong Ro Myung, the Foreign Minister, and they confirmed that they would maintain a "strong defence readiness" against the North. The State Department said that, although the incursions violated truces, they appeared to reflect North Korea's attempt to distance itself from the Korean War armistice and to deal directly with Washington.

North Korea has taken an increasingly aggressive line towards the South. In 1994 it

withdrew from the military armistice commission that oversees the truce and banned UN monitors from entering its territory at the Panmunjom crossing. It has demanded a bilateral peace agreement with Washington.

President Clinton is due to visit South Korea next week on his way to Japan.

North Korea has a million men under arms compared with 650,000 South Korean troops. The North's Chinese and Soviet-era weapons are outdated, however, and strategists say they would be no match for the better-equipped South Korean army.

American officials suggest that the latest incidents are intended to increase diplomatic leverage rather than serve as a prelude to a frontal attack across the armistice line.

The timing appears to be linked to South Korea's parliamentary elections on Thursday. President Kim's New Korea Party is expected to lose its absolute majority in the national assembly, but the North's sabre-rattling may rally voters in the South around the Government.



South Koreans look through telescopes across the demilitarised zone yesterday

Kashmir hostages 'held in village'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN SRINAGAR

INDIAN troops have pulled out of the Wadwan Hills in southeast Kashmir after identifying the area where they believe four Western hostages, including two Britons, are being held by Muslim extremists in a village hut.

The army said it feared an accidental confrontation between the militants and troops which could endanger the captives' lives. According to military intelligence, based on sightings by local people, all four men are alive.

Scotland Yard officers, trained in hostage negotiation, are in India in the hope of finding a breakthrough. Paul Wells and Keith Mangan from Britain, Donald Hutchings of America, and Dirk Hasert, a German, have entered their tenth month of captivity and radio contacts with Al Faran, the kidnap group, have broken down. The authorities are baffled by the long silence and the main theory is that the captors do not know how to end the crisis.



Generalissimo and Madame Chiang flank Earl Mountbatten on a visit to British India in 1943

Chiang's home town mourns loss of its Taiwanese tourists

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN XIEKOU, CHINA

JUST two months ago, this picturesque little town near China's eastern coast was swarming with Taiwanese tourists visiting the birthplace of Chiang Kai-shek, the late Chinese Nationalist Party leader, but for the past few weeks since Peking launched military exercises in the Taiwan Strait not a single Taiwanese has appeared, locals said yesterday.

"They are afraid to come, and business is hurting," said Chiang Suzhong, 37, who like many people in Xiekou shares a surname with the leader who died in 1975 and claims distant kinship to the man he calls lord. "Last year we had

Taiwanese tourists every day, but now because of the recent tension, they have stopped coming." The younger Chiang is a guide to the birthplace, former home and school of the Nationalist leader, who fled with his troops to Taiwan in 1949 when the Communist armies of his arch-enemy, Mao Tse-tung, won control of the mainland. In the anti-landlord campaign of the early 1950s, many other Chiang descendants were shot, imprisoned or sent to labour camps, locals said.

Yet there are still plenty of visitors to the Chiang ancestral home in Zhejiang province, although they are less wealthy Chinese citizens, not free-spending Taiwanese. Altogether one and a half million came last year.

The Taiwanese became nervous over fears that conflict would break out between China and Taiwan during the war games which ended in late March, after the Taiwanese presidential elections easily won by incumbent President Lee Teng-hui, who may have been helped by the Chinese sabre-rattling.

Surprisingly, Generalissimo Chiang, once Mao's nemesis, has undergone something of a rehabilitation in China, at a time when Peking has heaped abuse on Mr Lee as a "splittist" alleged-

ly bent on seeking independence for the prosperous island territory regarded by China as a renegade province.

Damage done by the Red Guards, who smashed Chiang family graves and scattered the bones of Chiang's mother, has been repaired, as has earlier devastation caused by Japanese bombs.

People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers, carrying their caps, were at the weekend touring the cobbled courtyards of Chiang's old residence, although their colleagues in neighbouring Fujian province were only last month firing missiles into the sea off Taiwan.

"Chiang made valuable contributions to the anti-Japanese struggle," said an elderly visitor from Shanghai, touring exhibits which included snapshots of Chiang with Churchill and Roosevelt. "Mao and Chiang may have had ideological differences, but Chiang always believed that China was one country and that Taiwan was part of China, unlike the present rulers there. The situation has been a little tense recently. Perhaps our Taiwan compatriots will return soon."

Grassroots economic matters, such as the relative prosperity that has come to this once neglected town since Peking began a more open policy towards Taiwan in 1986, and even encouragement to Taiwanese business to invest in Zhejiang, in part explain Chiang's return from purgatory.

Uneasy Taiwanese businessmen, 100,000 of whom have invested £16.5 billion since China's opening, certainly hope for a return of the strategy of co-operation between Mao and Chiang for a rare period in the 1930s, as do traders and guides like young Chiang who drives visitors around in a canopied bicycle trishaw.

But it may be some time before they make the pilgrimage here again.

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Mangled proverb led to arrest in Unabomber hunt

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A MANGLED proverb provided the FBI with a clue that led them to believe Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, a 53-year-old hermit from the wilds of Montana, is the most wanted man in America. In letters to his octogenarian mother, Mr Kaczynski used the expression "you can't eat your cake and have it, too". The same inverted construction was used by Unabomber, who is wanted for a deadly bombing campaign which lasted for 18 years.

Mr Kaczynski, who was arrested last week, is being detained on a holding charge related to a homemade bomb found at his cabin. A grand jury in Great Falls, Montana, may confirm further charges later this month.

Wanda Kaczynski allowed FBI agents to look at letters from her son that she had kept over the years. She did so, confident that they would prove he had nothing to do with the Unabomber. In addition to the "eat your cake" maxim, the letters contained rambling philosophical monologues which bear comparisons to the 35,000-word manifesto sent by the Unabomber to newspapers last year. Mr Kaczynski's letters were typed, as was the bomber's manifesto. Examples of the two will be examined by Martin Tytell, an 82-year-old typewriter expert from New York. Ironically, if the technophobe Unabomber had relied on a computer printer he might have denied the FBI vital evidence.

Unabomber investigators, who were tipped off by Mr Kaczynski's younger brother, appear increasingly confident that he is their man, but the United States Attorney General's office continued to exercise legal caution. Experts have speculated that Mr Kaczynski could be tried in the various states where the Unabomber struck. The District Attorney in Sacramento, California, boasted that her city was the easiest place in which to secure a death sentence, and Pete Wilson, California's Governor, said he would work to ensure that the trial was held there.

The object of their unseemly squabbling, Ted Kaczynski, looked perplexed by the array of cameras and reporters' shouts of "Are you the Unabomber?" as he faced the media. He walked busily, his head bobbing up and down as he checked the ground, with his hands held together like a monk in cloisters. The former maths professor's now-washed hair is springy, and his filthy old clothes have been replaced by a bright orange prison jumpsuit.

Outside Lincoln, Montana, FBI agents allowed reporters a closer look at the outside of the handbuilt, 10ft by 12ft plywood cabin where Mr Kaczynski lived, enduring the merciless winters without electricity or plumbing. In thick snow he must have struggled outside to use a nearby stream as a toilet. Inside, the cabin was dark, the only natural light filtering through two inadequate, dirty windows. The single door has three locks, a level of protection rare in a rural community where neighbours lend each other tools, swap vegetables and leave the door open.

Investigators are going through the contents of 40 boxes of assorted belongings found in a loft in the cabin. One neighbour recalled him as "a sweet little neighbour", but Carol Wells, a Lincoln shopkeeper, said that "this was not his home, just his hiding place".

Police have yet to understand how a seemingly penniless hermit can allegedly have conducted a nationwide bombing campaign. Mr Kaczynski made occasional bus journeys, using the daily service connecting Lincoln to Montana's capital, Helena, 30 miles away, and to Missoula, about 100 miles to the west. From there one can catch Greyhound buses to destinations across the country.

For Lincoln, meanwhile, a small economic boom is taking place thanks to the massed ranks of reporters and FBI investigators. Wayne Cashman, owner of the Blackfoot River Inn, said: "This time of year is usually really slow. It has been a real help." Souvenirs were swiftly marketed, from \$40 (\$26) Unabomber T-shirts to \$20 baseball caps. There has also been the sighting of the first taxi in Lincoln, hired in Helena by a CBS News reporter.

Kaczynski: expert is to examine his typewriter

Kaczynski: expert is to examine his typewriter



Athletes in period running gear help to re-enact the first modern Olympics at the Panathenaic stadium in Athens where the ancient Games were revived 100 years ago.

More than 30,000 people braved unusual cold to join the raucous party. Athletes from the original ten countries, Australia, Britain, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hunga-

First Olympic Games re-run

ry, Sweden and America, competed on Saturday night in some of the 43 original events for olive wreaths and silver and bronze medals — there were no gold medals in 1896.

"We had a lot of fun. You get overwhelmed by the history here which can't be compared to any medal. I can say I've run in this stadium," Roger Kingdom, a two-time gold medalist, said. The centennial Games in Atlanta this summer will include 10,000 athletes from 197 countries competing in 271 events. The Olympic torch is being taken around the Greek Islands before it begins its journey to Georgia. (Reuters)

Albright tipped for the top in next Clinton Cabinet

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHEN St Mary's girls' school in North Carolina wanted to invite Madeleine Albright, the Ambassador to the United Nations, to give a speech last month it enlisted the help of its right-wing local senator.

Jesse Helms, America's harshest UN critic, wrote to Mrs Albright to persuade her to visit his rural, tobacco-growing constituency. The ambassador accepted the invitation on condition that Mr Helms appear at the event to introduce her.

The event went swimmingly. Mrs Albright used the occasion to make a policy address on UN-American relations. Mr Helms nodded approvingly at every mention of UN reform and refrained from criticising her proposal that Washington pay off its billion-dollar debt to the world body over the next five years.

The gathering was the clearest sign yet of one of the most curious courtships in current American politics between a diehard Democrat and the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"He is charmed by women: she knows how to charm an old Southern senator," one political insider explained. "It's all gooey. It makes me want to throw up."

Mrs Albright's blossoming relationship with Mr Helms is one of a number of factors that have made her the clear front-runner to succeed Warren Christopher as Secretary of State in a second Clinton Administration.

Others are lining up for Mr Christopher's job, should President Clinton be re-elected in November, as looks likely. They include Richard Holbrooke, the former Bosnia troubleshooter now working on Wall Street; Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State; and Lee Hamilton, a Demo-

crat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. According to the conventional wisdom, however, Mrs Albright is the woman to beat.

The significance of her friendship with Mr Helms is that his committee, with its Republican majority, controls the confirmation by the Senate of the next Secretary of State.

This fact is not lost on Mrs Albright, who began her political career in the 1970s as an aide to Edmund Muskie, then a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Prague-born daughter of a Czech diplomat, sentenced to death in absentia in 1949 by his country's new Communist rulers, Mrs Albright has impeccable credentials as a Cold Warrior. As UN Ambassador, she has taken a decidedly neo-conservative line on Iraq, Cuba, North Korea, Libya and the Palestinians.

Some Democrats complain that Mrs Albright spends too much time on Capitol Hill wooing Congressional leaders. However, she is said to have impressed Mr Clinton with her sage advice on Bosnia last summer when America finally unleashed its air power against the Serbs.



Albright: wooing votes on Senate committee

Teenage boys kill themselves for love of a schoolgirl, 12

BY QUENTIN LETTS

TWO 15-year-old boys involved in a love triangle killed themselves in desperation at their romantic plight, after police stopped them for speeding in a stolen car. An alert state trooper managed to stop the 12-year-old girl they both loved from shooting herself as well.

A weeping Jennifer Waldroup was restrained by the Arkansas state trooper moments after her would-be boyfriends, Joshua Rogers and Kevin Hyde, died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds to the head from a .22 pistol.

The three children, from North Carolina, had stolen the car and were miles from home when they were spotted driving through Arkansas at more than 100mph.

Police chased them until the car eventually pulled up at a lay-by, where Corporal Freddie Hudson left his patrol car to talk to them.

As the state trooper approached the vehicle, there were two shots as the boys killed themselves.

He rushed towards the car and found Jennifer scrambling around on the floor of

the car, trying to find the pistol. "They had all agreed to kill themselves and the girl would have kept her end of the bargain if our officer had not been alert," said Wayne Jordan, of the Arkansas state police. "She was screaming 'Kill me. I want to die'."

After being calmed by Corporal Hudson, the girl told investigators that the two boys were in a quandary because they were both in love with her.

"We were going west," she said. "We didn't know where. We were just going."

Weeping Clinton salutes Brown

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A simple ceremony, the bodies of Ron Brown, the American Secretary of Commerce, and 32 other people who died in the Dubrovnik air crash, were returned to American soil as their grieving families and President Clinton looked on.

A 19-gun salute echoed at dusk on Saturday across the Dover air force base in Delaware where the American trade mission to help the Balkans rebuild in peace ended in tears.

Mr Clinton, his voice breaking, said: "The sun is going down on this day. The next time it rises it will be Easter morning, a day that marks the passage from loss and despair to hope and redemption... What they did while the sun was out will last with us forever."

Mr Clinton paid special tribute to Mr Brown, a political ally and an architect of his own 1992 election victory. "He was a noble Secretary of Commerce who never saw a mountain he couldn't climb, or a river he couldn't build a bridge across."

The strain of the occasion showed clearly on Mr Clinton's face. He finally broke down after the ceremony as he walked to Air Force One to fly back to Washington.

Chirac accused of weapons deal to save French pilots

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC was embroiled in controversy yesterday after French television reported that he had sanctioned weapons sales to Bosnian Serbs to secure the release of two pilots shot down over the former Yugoslavia.

The report on the independent TFI channel, which was denied by the French authorities, claimed that Paris had paid Russia to supply arms to the forces of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic last December.

Mr Chirac has maintained there were neither negotiations nor deals with the Bosnian Serbs, who captured the airmen after their Mirage 2000 was hit over Pale during a Nato mission last August. Captain Frederic Chiffot and

Lieutenant José Souvignat were held hostage for 103 days amid growing anxiety in France. When they were freed, Mr Chirac went out of his way to thank President Yeltsin without whom, he said, the release "would not have been possible". He said the Russian leader had helped by putting pressure on Dr Karadzic and General Mladic. But in a report for its main evening news bulletin on Saturday, TFI said that Mr Yeltsin's intervention was far more significant than President Chirac had led his compatriots to believe.

It said Jean-Charles Marchiani, an intelligence specialist who is close to President Chirac's Gaullist movement, had been involved in talks with the Bosnian Serbs, overseen by Russian agents. This led to a complex deal, with France buying weapons in Moscow and asking Russia to deliver them to Pale, the television station claimed.

The report included an interview with a man identified as Colonel Vladimir Koulich of the Russian foreign intelligence agency. He said he had been involved in the talks alongside M Marchiani. At the time of the release, there was speculation that General Mladic had demanded immunity from prosecution for war crimes.

The French Defence Ministry said: "There were neither negotiations, nor compensations, nor exchanges for the release of the pilots."

Serbs face PoW ultimatum

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN DUBROVNIK

THE Bosnian Serbs are likely to be excluded from a Dayton peace accord, said Bosnian Serb officials had handed over files on 16 suspected war criminals but they had failed to meet the requirements on prisoners.

His announcement came only days after Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, and a delegation of American business executives were killed in a plane crash after visiting Bosnia on a reconstruction mission. Their

deaths will also hamper the rebuilding process. Mr Bilic said the conference would go ahead. "It looks as if I would be able to give the green light for the conference, but not for the participation of the Bosnian Serbs," he said.

When the deadline passed, the Croats, who were holding 44 PoWs, released 28; the Muslims, who were detaining 28, freed 18; and the Serbs, who were holding 16, failed to release any.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Liberian feud sets city ablaze

Monrovia: Fighting and looting erupted in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, yesterday after the Council of State ordered the arrest of a deposed warlord on murder charges.

Rival factions exchanged fire and set buildings ablaze when fighting spread to the city centre, particularly around barracks of the former national army.

The clashes began around the home of Roosevelt Johnson, a deposed faction leader, and forced thousands of civilians to flee. Council member Charles Taylor, who launched Liberia's civil war in 1989, said on radio: "The decision now is for the police to bring Mr Johnson to justice." (Reuters)

Iraq 'oil for food' talks to resume

New York: Talks on an "oil for food" scheme allowing Iraq to start selling crude for the first time since the Gulf War are due to resume in New York today (James Bone writes). Two rounds of talks have been held this year on the United Nations-approved proposal which would allow Iraq to sell up to \$1bn (£649 million) of oil every three months in order to raise money for food and medicines.

Fresh search for abducted Briton

Phnom Penh: The employer of a British mine-clearing expert and his Cambodian translator, who have been taken hostage by Khmer Rouge rebels, said it might launch its own search from Thailand. Archie McCarron, the director of the Mines Advisory Group in Cambodia, said that there had been "absolutely no news" of Christopher Howes, from Bristol, and Huon Hourth. (AFP)

Island volcano erupts again

Plymouth, Montserrat: A volcano hurled tons of ash miles into the air, preventing evacuated islanders from retrieving belongings they had abandoned in Plymouth, the capital, after an eruption on Wednesday. It was the third evacuation since the Soufriere Hills volcano became active in July, after hundreds of years of being dormant. (AP)

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Picnic at North Pole

BY QUENTIN LETTS

ONE OF the richest women in America will next week make a day trip to the North Pole to have a picnic and to "find" herself.

Marylou Vanderbilt Whitney, a vivacious widow, has commissioned two small aircraft — one of them a fuel plane — to fly her and three companions to the Pole. They intend to alight, admire the view for an hour or so, and plant a flag.

Mrs Whitney, an acquaintance of the Prince of Wales, holds that "if you have some fears you need to conquer them", and that "money does not make you happy — it's the way you live life that is important". She hopes that the adventure will help her to "grow as a person". Mrs Whitney, who is believed to be nudging 70, has also organised the trip as a 91st birthday present to Norman Vaughan, who will be along for the ride.

Mr Vaughan is a former explorer who mushed dogs for Admiral Byrd on his trip to Antarctica in 1928. Mrs Whitney thought it would be "neat"

for him to have stood full square on both Poles, "the bottom and top of the world".

The North Pole visit in two ski-equipped Twin Otter aeroplanes will not be without danger. Mrs Whitney's assistant, Courtney Callahan, said: "We'll be landing on broken, moving ice and will spend about an hour at the Pole. It will be up to the pilots to say exactly how long we stay. They will probably be quite anxious to get going." Miss Callahan added that a picnic may be packed, perhaps with a flask of bourbon from Mrs Whitney's home state of Kentucky, although the well-preserved millionaire prefers to drink vinegar.

Mrs Whitney will wear a bright yellow and pink jacket with matching trousers over long underwear and "bunny boots", similar to those worn by Eskimos. She seems to like the cold. Last year she and Mr Vaughan looked in on Antarctica, where their party slept in igloos and ate Spam; and she cooked her forte — lemon meringue pie.



Marylou Whitney, pictured at a pet show, walking a friend's dalmatian

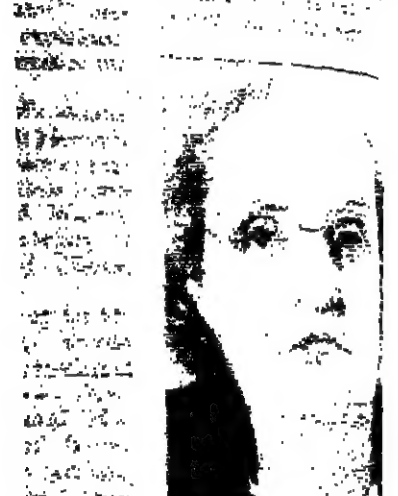
Handwritten text in a box: "JAPANESE" and "JAPANESE" with some other illegible characters.

Right tipped top in next Cabinet

James Dore in New York

After a long and hard day of negotiations, the British Government has agreed to a deal with the Irish Government on the issue of the Northern Ireland peace process. The deal, which was announced by the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, on Monday, April 8, 1996, is a significant step towards the resolution of the conflict in Northern Ireland. The deal involves the British Government agreeing to a new arrangement for the Northern Ireland peace process, which will involve the British Government agreeing to a new arrangement for the Northern Ireland peace process, which will involve the British Government agreeing to a new arrangement for the Northern Ireland peace process.

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French hold record
in pill swallowing

Paris: Encouraged by a system that has almost no constraints, the French spend more on healthcare than any other country in Europe (Adam Sage writes).

Further research indicates that about 25,000 of France's 165,000 doctors are superfluous, a suggestion that the Government has taken on

Eurocrats of cyberspace let chance to promote unity slip through the Net

The German poet Hans Magnus Enzensberger once told me that the inter-rail cards used by Europe's young backpackers had done more to integrate the continent than all the earnest work done by governments. You might think that today's equivalent of cheap, transcontinental rail tickets is the Internet.

European patriotism with flags, anthems and the paraphernalia of national politics magnified on a continental scale. However, since the present EU consists of 15 welfare and tax systems and a dozen separate languages, the stubborn survival of the nation state keeps frustrating them.



unsupervised electronic anarchy is surely the place. That's the theory: practice is different. I may have missed it (and inexperienced cybernauts like me can miss a

good deal) but a recent sample revealed little "eurobuzz" on my screen. Anybody plugging into the EU who expects the zippy, border-hopping reverence with which MTV sets the agenda for Europe's rock fans will be sorely disappointed.

National governments and the European Commission and Parliament have lumbered into action and set up web sites. The Foreign Office dumps 7,000 documents a week into <http://www.fco.gov.uk/> and if you want to argue with Malcolm Rifkind's EU White Paper, you can e-mail the Foreign Secretary direct. However, governments are just using the Net as another way of bombarding you with facts you probably don't want to know and which are already available in other forms.

You might have thought that the European Commission wanted to upgrade its battered image. The Eurocrats have produced "Europa" (<http://www.cec.lu/>), which has beautiful flags but is otherwise a yawn. There is plenty of data, but it is not updated very often.

A list of rebuttals knocking down untrue stories about the EU endures things a little but is wrecked by po-faced solemnity. An entry rubbishing the myth that the EU will force every fishing boat to keep at least 200 condoms on board can't resist adding a pious sermonette on the "Europe Against Aids" campaign.

Debate on the development of the Net snap, crackle and pop elsewhere. The war of words over ineffectual attempts by the Mannheim public prosecutor to suppress Ernst Zindel, the German Canadian apologist for the Nazis, has been conducted mainly by Americans. The French Government has been trying vainly to persuade Washington to shut down a San Diego-based Islamic group which has been putting bomb assembly instructions on the Net.

GEORGE BROCK

Doctors call a 24-hour strike over Juppé cuts

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

DOCTORS' surgeries in France will shut down for a day this month as part of protest over the Prime Minister's plans to reduce welfare spending.

Four months after civil servants brought the country to a standstill when they demonstrated against Alain Juppé's cuts, specialists and GPs are threatening to follow suit.

M Juppé is planning to fine practitioners if they overstep their annual budget, so the biggest doctors' union has taken the unusual step of calling a strike for April 24, the day the proposals are to be approved by the Cabinet.

Their action is a fresh blow to the Prime Minister, who weathered December's massive protests at a severe cost to his own popularity.

In a country that spends more on its healthcare system than any other in Europe, and where patients are deeply attached to their medicines and their doctors, the controversy is likely to prove damaging to the Gaullist-led administration.

The dispute comes as new figures suggest that, despite the unprecedented cuts announced by M Juppé last November, France's social security deficit will reach Fr40 billion (€5.2 billion) this year, more than double the Government's target. A rise in unemployment and a slowing down in economic activity are responsible for a failure that will set back Paris's chances of fulfilling the criteria to take part in economic and monetary union.

Chastened by the anger that followed their drive to cut Civil Service pensions at the end of last year, ministers had intended to dilute their healthcare reforms. They argue that because of the deepening deficit they have no choice but to crack down.

At present patients can see as many GPs and specialists as they like, whenever they like. The more people doctors see, and the more treatments

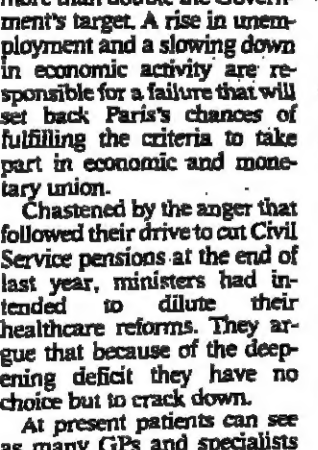
they prescribe, the more they earn — an arrangement that scarcely encourages savings.

Under M Juppé's plans, a healthcare budget would be fixed at the start of every year. If the country's 165,000 doctors overspend, the entire profession would be penalised, with their fees likely to be frozen and the possibility of collective fines. Individual doctors could also face sanctions for overspending even if, as a whole, the profession stays within its budget. People would also be encouraged to consult a GP before seeing a more costly specialist, a procedure that is far from automatic.

Claude Maffioli, president of the Confederation of French Medical Unions, which called the strike, said: "We are moving towards the English system of limiting healthcare."

The MG union, which only represents GPs, was better disposed towards M Juppé's ideas. Nevertheless, it said: "The balance has swung too far towards controlling doctors."

For patients, too, there will be sharp changes, with an obligation to present their medical records every time they see a doctor. The Government hopes that this will curb the French habit of consulting several practitioners the same day for the same illness.

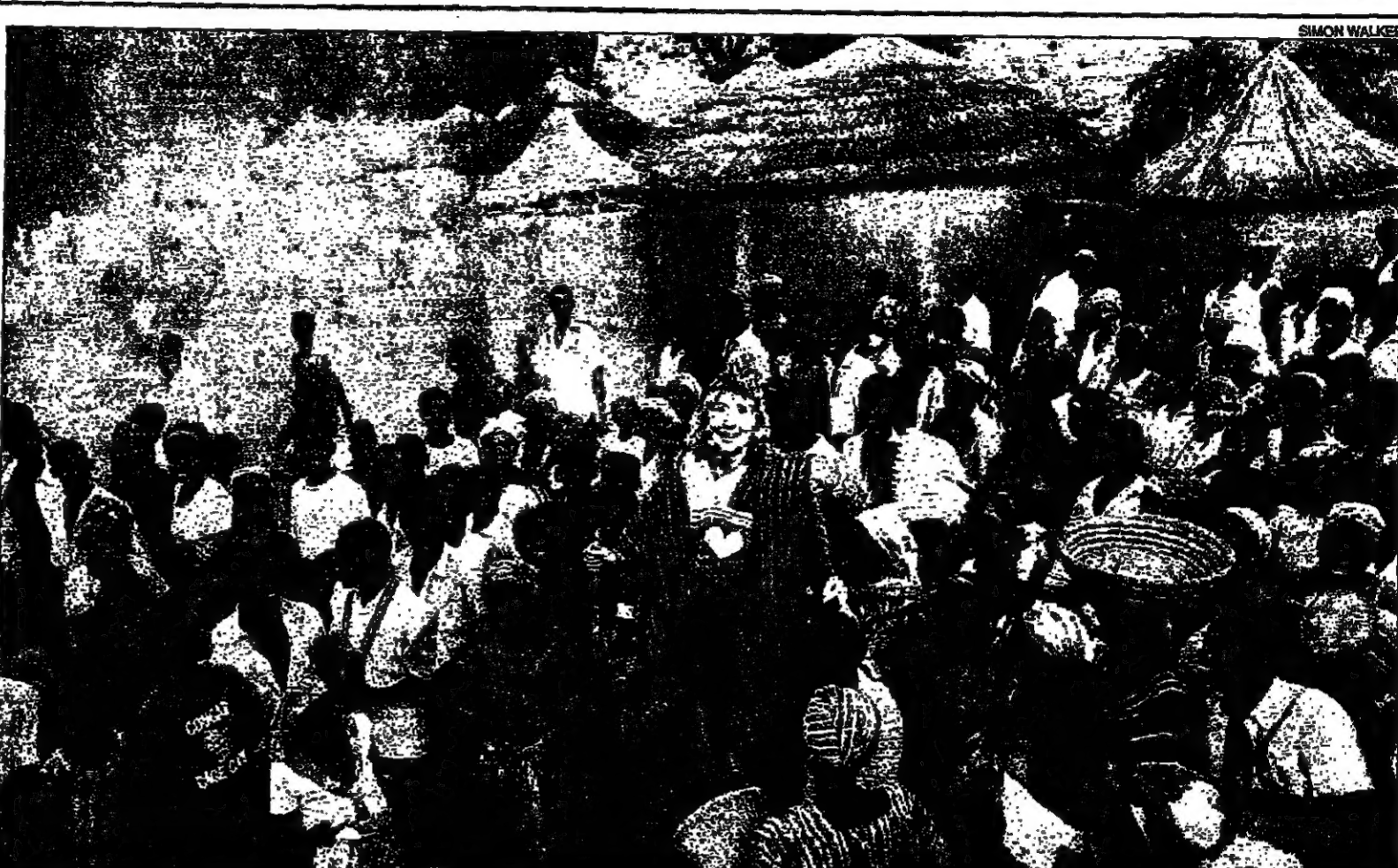


Juppé faces another damaging protest

French hold record in pill swallowing

Paris: Encouraged by a system that has almost no constraints, the French spend more on healthcare than any other country in Europe (Adam Sage writes).

Further research indicates that about 25,000 of France's 165,000 doctors are superfluous, a suggestion that the Government has taken on



Norfolk teacher Lynne Symonds among her enthusiastic new subjects at her inauguration as a chief of the Mamprusi in northern Ghana

Ghana tribe makes British woman teacher a chief

FROM SIMON WALKER IN WULUGU, NORTHERN GHANA

LYNNE SYMONDS forsook the girls in her sixth-form chemistry class at Hetherst Old Hall School near Norwich during the Easter weekend for her inauguration as a tribal African chief.

After a ceremony lasting three days and nights amid the swirling dust, searing heat and incessant drumbeats, Mrs Symonds said: "I was scared stiff. It will add another dimension to my CV though, I suppose." At the climax of the rituals Mrs Symonds, the wife of

a Norfolk pig farmer and mother of two daughters aged 19 and 24, was carried shoulder high around the mud hut villages. She was rechristened "Miesim Poagnaba", which translates as "Woman Chief of Enlightenment and Education". Mrs Symonds was given a red-and-black ceremonial robe and matching hat and ornate sandals.

The honour, never before given to a white person by the Mamprusi tribe of northern Ghana, was bestowed by Chief Wulugumba, the division chief of the Kpasenke area. Her elevation began three years ago when she attended an education conference in

Tokyo and talked to Karimu Nachina, headmaster of the school at Wulugu. Discovering how poor the facilities there were, Mrs Symonds set about forging links between the school and her own, sending books and raising money to build a boarding house for the 100 girls who are often abused by villagers with whom they are forced to lodge.

The unexpected reward in recognition of her educational work is her honorary title as third in command of the Mamprusi tribe of 3,000 people living in 13 villages. It confers upon her, in theory at least, the power of life

Bomb warning in Israel as Easter message urges religious tolerance

Pope pleads for an end to persecution of Christians

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope yesterday hit out at the intransigence of "followers of other religions" who were persecuting Christians, an apparent reference to Islamic fundamentalism.

In his Easter message *Urbi et Orbi*, he said that Christians in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe had "legitimate aspirations" to employment, housing, social justice and religious freedom which were being "hindered" by other faiths.

The Pope recently condemned Islamic persecution of Christians in Sudan, and is due to travel to Tunisia next weekend to plead for Islamic tolerance and Islamic-Christian dialogue. He also spoke out against the growing power of Protestant sects during his gruelling tour of Central America last month.

Yesterday the Pope praised those who "at the cost of great sacrifice" were pursuing peace in Bosnia, Ireland and "particularly the Holy Land". Hopes for peace in the Middle East were still jeopardised by "recourse to force and violence". He asked Christ to "comfort those who reject the inevitability of ethnic rivalries in Burundi and Rwanda" and "allay the sufferings of those subjected to violence of arms in the Caucasus, Afghanistan, Algeria, Sudan and other regions."

The Pope, 75, looked tired but spoke strongly during yesterday's Easter ceremony on a packed and sunlit St Peter's Square, carpeted with flowers from The Netherlands. Dressed in white and gold robes and a gold mitre, he wished viewers around the world a happy Easter in 57 languages, to applause and shouts of encouragement.

The Pope had appeared unsteady on Good Friday while following the Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum and volunteers from Rwanda and Bosnia helped him to carry the cross.



The Pope waves to the faithful who came to hear his Easter message in St Peter's Square yesterday

Palestinians barred from Jerusalem sites

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EASTER Day celebrations in the Holy City where Jesus was crucified were marred by the threat of more Islamic suicide attacks and harsh Israeli security measures which stopped thousands of Palestinian Christians from visiting holy sites.

The threat of more suicide bombings issued by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, also kept away many foreign pilgrims, some of whom found that tour operators were unable to provide travel insurance for Israel.

In Saint George's Cathedral in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, Samir Kafaty, the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, denounced the five-week closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, imposed after Palestinian suicide bombers killed more than 60 people in nine days. Some would-be

Palestinian pilgrims who were unable to reach the site of Jesus's crucifixion at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in the heart of the Old City, went to Bethlehem, the newly autonomous West Bank town.

Polisario rebels threaten to resume war against Morocco

FROM MARK HUBAND IN RABOULI, SOUTHERN ALGERIA

ALGERIAN-BACKED fighters battling Morocco for control of the disputed territory of Western Sahara have threatened a return to desert war after a five-year ceasefire if a planned referendum on the future of the mineral-rich territory is not held.

The leader of the Polisario Front's war against the Moroccan occupation of the territory insisted that, if a United Nations-sponsored referendum allow-

ing the self-determination of the native Sahrawi people is to go ahead, substantial evidence of Moroccan manipulation of the voter-registration process must first be addressed. The UN's already extended mandate expires on May 31 and is unlikely to be renewed.

Mohammed Abdelaziz, leader of the front and President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic — a state without a country, recognised by 70 nations — said in an interview at his headquarters in Rabouli, south of the isolated Algerian town of Tindouf, that he would accept the appointment of an independent mediator to establish a dialogue between Polisario and the Moroccan Government to avert a crisis which threatens regional stability.

"We are not looking for war, and we are concerned about finding a way of saving the [UN] settlement plan. But if war is imposed on us we will fight. We are seeking the appointment of an independent mediator, but not somebody from either the Organisation of African Unity or the UN. Somebody who can open dialogue." His call is

fraught with danger. Morocco has never officially recognised the Polisario Front as a legitimate opponent, rather as a rebel force backed by its main regional rival and claiming a territory which King Hassan views as part of Morocco.

The Polisario Front has repeatedly accused the UN of favouring Moroccan interests, failing to investigate accusations of bias in the voter-registration process and allowing Morocco to intimidate and imprison those calling for a fair vote.



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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART
Playing with stainless steel: the intriguing work of the sculptor Alison Wilding goes on show in London
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ OPERA
Verdi's first great success, *Nabucco*, returns to Covent Garden for the first time in two decades
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE
Josie Lawrence stars as the RSC brings its production of *The Taming of the Shrew* to the Barbican
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSICALS
Broadway star Mandy Patinkin makes his British stage debut performing show tunes at the Almeida
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

LONDON

ELVIS: Revival of the 20-year-old tribute show. P.J. Proby plays the Vegas Elvis, newcomer Alexander Bar as the teenager and Tim Whelan (the teenager 20 years ago) now plays the Elvis in his prime. Posing to the music of the late-night garage on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.
Palace of Wales, Coventry Street W1 (0171-539 5672). Now previewing, tomorrow-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 8.30pm. Opens Apr 15, 7pm.

EVOLVING TRADITION 2: The four-day celebration of folk and roots music ends today with Irish musical heroes Patrick Street in concert and a variety of free folk performances from up-and-coming folk acts, including Cello, Shogakukan and Ben Paley.
Barbican, Barbican, EC2A 4PU (0171-539 8891). Free events, 12.30-5.30pm; Patrick Street, 7.30pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mazzy

LEEDS: The increasingly popular, week-long festival of music and dance opens its second day as the city throws open its pubs, clubs, concert halls and colleges to a variety of seminars, musicians' masterclasses and club nights. Among the big acts playing today are Maric Street Pressures, Cast and Tarnation. The week's other headline acts include Sleep, 9th Circle, Shogakukan, The Presidents of the United States of America, Doozie, Orkney, Wedding Present and Ben Paley. (0113-243 8855) and Bookings (0113-290 0100).

BIRMINGHAM: The indie John Mark Adams is among the subjects of the Greater Birmingham Orchestra and Chorus for a lively concert featuring works by Peter Aron, Vaughan Williams and Elgar, and the world premiere of what promises to be a dramatic new oratorio by the young composer Francis Grant. (0121-233 3333). Tonight, 8pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Daphne, Creator of the Ballet Russes (0171-426 4141). ... British Museum: Vases and Votives: St William Hamilton collection (0171-426 1555). ... Courtyard: Drawings by Thomas Gainsborough (0171-473 2628). ... Haymarket: Spontaneous Art and Film (0171-262 3144). ... Leighton: Alexander Gallery: A Million Butterflies (0171-426 1322). ... Museum of London: London on Film (0171-500 8807). National Gallery: Old Master paintings from the Royal Academy (0171-747 2885). ... National Portrait Gallery: Faces of the 18th (0171-308 0055). Royal Academy: Gustave Courbet (0171-426 7438). ... Serpentine: Jean-Michel Basquiat (0171-723 0072). ... Tate: Picasso (0171-426 7438). ... V&A: Leighton Freescoes (0171-338 8600).

POP

Lou Reed
Empire, W12

Reed has dispensed with such awkward pretensions, and his show at Shepherd's Bush was all the better for it.

After a brief guitar renaissance, cranked out in that amateurish style but authoritative way of his, he launched straight into *Sweet Jane*, one of those essence-of-rock'n'roll riffs that Reed has conjured over the years, and still a song that can knock you back on your heels. Quickly establishing a pattern of new numbers liberally interspersed with his classics, Reed breezed through *NYC Man* from his current album, *See the Twilight Reeling*, then led his three-man group into *Dirty Blvd*. Here was another irresistible, tug-at-the-elbow riff this time combined with an eloquently damning description of life among the New York City underclass, as ever, in his uniquely drawl: "No one here dreams of being a doctor or a lawyer or anything/They dream of dealing on the dirty boulevard."

An unlikely survivor



As his Shepherd's Bush gig proved, Lou Reed still has his finger on the rock'n'roll pulse

In recent times, Reed's poetic flair as a lyricist has made him more than a match for Bob Dylan. But Reed also likes to play loud, loosely-scripted rock'n'roll, and that is what this wonderfully vibrant show was all about.

Frequent eye contact was maintained between Reed and his fellow musicians, particularly bass player Fernando Saunders — a veteran of Reed's bands from the 1960s — who played an unusually delicate solo during *See the Twilight Reeling*. Drummer Tony "Thunder" Smith fully lived up to his nickname, most notably when using a pair of beaters to hammer merry hell out of his tom-toms during the epic finale of *Doing The Things That They Want To*.

New songs, from the frivolous slow rocker *Egg Cream* to the seriously moody *Ripside*, slotted seamlessly alongside *Waiting For The Man* and *I Love You Suzanne*, prompting a rapturous reception. "We came to play," Reed announced as he strapped on his guitar for the first of five encores, which included *Walk On The Wild Side* and a scrappy *Satellite Of Love*.

Like Keith Richards, whom he is beginning to resemble, Reed is an unlikely survivor who still has his finger on the rock'n'roll pulse. Stripped, on this occasion, of all excess baggage, he delivered goods from the motherlode with capacity to spare.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CHAPTER TWO

Tom Corbett and Sharon Glass play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best. (0171-494 5055). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political abuse and scandal. (0171-494 5055). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of the society. (0171-494 5055). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC: Eloquent and successful production by Sean Mathias of Simon's 1974 comedy. (0171-494 5055). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

PASSION: An unconvincing musical from Simon, but Mandy Patinkin remains good as a voracious man-hunter who gets his man, with Michael Ball and Helen Hobson. (0171-494 5055). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome Kingdon's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

THE RELAPSE: Victor Spinetti plays the infelicitous Lord Poppington in Ian Judge's production from last year's festival, which is a sentimentalised play of date hardness. (0171-338 8891). Now previewing, 7.15pm. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm. In rep with *The Devil is an Ass*.

SOME SUNNY DAY: Martin Sherman's new play, set in Cairo in 1942 with the German army very close and the British being viciously British. The cast of Roger Michell's production includes Cheryl Campbell, Sara Kestelman, Roger Rees and Peter Firth. (0171-494 5055). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

SUGAR DOLLS: In the hands of the young composer Francis Grant, the world premiere of a new oratorio. (0121-233 3333). Tonight, 8pm.

LONG RUNNERS

Blood Brothers: (0171-867 1044). ... *Cats:* (0171-426 4141). ... *Company:* (0171-426 4141). ... *Death of a Salesman:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Firm:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part II:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part III:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part IV:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part V:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part VI:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part VII:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part VIII:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part IX:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part X:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part XI:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part XII:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part XIII:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part XIV:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part XV:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part XVI:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part XVII:* (0171-426 4141). ... *The Godfather Part XVIII:* (0171-426 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MUSICALS

Broadway star Mandy Patinkin makes his British stage debut performing show tunes at the Almeida Theatre, London, Sunday

CABARET

Mulling it over

Denny Laine
Cafe Royal

ROWING



21
Light Blue victory puts dark cloud over Oxford

FOOTBALL



23
Newcastle challenge hangs on wing and a prayer

RACING



29
Queen Mother returns for Irish conquest

SPORT FOR ALL



30
Taking to the air in a leap of faith

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 8 1996



Hill, the eventual winner, leads Schumacher, Alesi, Berger and the rest of the Formula One field through the opening lap of the Argentine Grand Prix in Buenos Aires. Photograph: Eduardo di Baia

Flawless drive leaves English challenger 18 points clear of field Hill enjoys view from summit

FROM OLIVER HOIT
IN BUENOS AIRES

TROUBLE stuck to him like glue last season, but this year problems are flowing around Damon Hill and moulding him into a smooth stone. If there were bumps and jolts on the uneven circuit here yesterday, he seemed to glide over them; if many of his principle rivals were ravaged by car sickness, he and his haughty Williams-Renault were jauntily immune. Nothing, it seems, is impeding his sprint towards his first Formula One drivers' world championship.

Hill made it three grand prix wins out of three this season here at this track on the northern outskirts of the city, sailing home a country mile ahead of his team-mate and closest challenger, Jacques Villeneuve, of Canada. After a meteorologically effective race with no alarms, the Englishman is now 18 points out in front in the race for the 1996 world title.

He led from start to finish and ended, coasting, more than 12sec ahead of Villeneuve, who is being eased into the role of subservient team-mate in the face of Hill's mastery. In only his fourth season, Hill has now won 16 grands prix, the same number as Stirling Moss, and is closing on Nigel Mansell's record of five successive wins at the start of the 1992 season.

Hill was relentless, his Williams-Renault a class above the rest of the field in terms of both performance and reliability. As he pressed on and on, keeping a steady gap between himself and his pursuers throughout, the rest of the field simply fell away, as if in a dream.

Michael Schumacher, initially his closest challenger, was forced to retire after he lost part of his rear wing. He said it had been damaged when part of Hill's car flew off and he had to duck to avoid it. The pursuer's mantle was taken up, briefly, by Jean Alesi, in his Benetton-Renault, but his challenge was ruined when he stalled his car at his second pit-stop. His team-mate, Gerhard Berger, also ran second for a while, but he, too, was forced out of the race with mechanical problems.

Hill was unflappable. Even when the lead he had established early on was wiped out because a spectacular crash brought the safety car out and bunched up the field, he eased away effortlessly again. "It is a great day and a fantastic result," Hill said. "It is difficult

to imagine it getting any better than this. The result represents the force that we have at the team and I am very, very happy."

Hill had made the perfect start from the thirteenth pole position of his career, a beginning that was a match for the near-flawless, controlled driving he had produced all weekend. As Villeneuve was engulfed by a sea of advancing rivals, slipping back to ninth by the end of the first lap, Hill hurtled away from the front of the grid and left Schumacher trailing in his wake.

But the German had driven heroically all weekend, pushing himself and his car to its limits to fashion a lap-time so fast that he started alongside Hill on the front row. He had forced his equipment to the edge of its capabilities so that its nose cone twitched continually as he teetered on the brink of losing control.

For the first ten laps, everyone was transported back to the Hill-Schumacher duels of last season. After Hill had eked out a gap of 0.8sec in the first two laps, the world champion, who is having to dig deeper into the reserves of his ability than ever before as he races against being consigned to a season as an also-ran, clawed his way back.

He set the fastest time on the sixth lap and brought himself to within half a second of Hill. He almost attempted a dive inside his rival on two or three occasions, but thought better of it. Schumacher stayed with Hill as long as he could but then, inexorably, Hill started to pull away. By the end of the seventeenth lap, the Englishman was more than 4sec ahead.

The leading positions remained the same after the front-runners made their first round of pit-stops soon afterwards. But then a race which was threatening to become routine exploded into action with a series of accidents.

First, the Forti-Ford of Luca Badoer spun into a gravel trap on the 27th lap and flipped over on to its front. Badoer crawled out unhurt, but his car was left stranded in a dangerous position and the race organisers sent the safety car out on to the track to slow the rest of the field down.

That reduced Hill's lead to a car-length, but while the drivers were dawdling round, the engine on the Ligier Mugen-Honda of Pedro Diniz blew up and burst into flames. Diniz spun into the gravel, as burning fuel sloshed around him, and leapt out of the car, also unhurt.

When the safety car was pulled off the track on the 31st lap, Hill pulled away from Schumacher again. By the end of the 38th lap, he was nearly

3sec ahead of the German, who was coming under increasing pressure from Alesi. Two laps later, Schumacher pulled into the pits for his second stop, leaving Hill with a 4sec lead over Alesi. Alesi then ruined his chances of mounting a sustained challenge for victory when he stalled his Benetton-Renault in the pit-lane on his own second stop, losing 12sec in the process.

Hill was clear in the lead now, his rivals melting away behind him as they seem to have done so far this season. On the 46th lap, it got even better. Alesi caught and passed Schumacher for eighth place, then Barrichello passed him, too. At the end of the lap, clearly in trouble, the world champion pulled back into the pits and retired. He has managed only four points from his first three races.

When Hill emerged from his second pit stop on the fiftieth lap, he had extended his lead over his nearest challenger, Berger, to more than 13sec. Seven laps later, the Austrian's race was curtailed by mechanical problems, too. It was as though any car that dared to get too close to Hill was struck with a curse.

By now, Villeneuve, who was also on the two-stop strategy shared only by Hill, had moved into second place by default, comfortably ahead of Alesi, while Rubens Barrichello, who so narrowly missed out on third place in Brazil, had moved up to fourth at the end of the 62nd lap, a fitting reward for his perseverance.

DETAILS FROM BUENOS AIRES

RESULT: 1. D. Hill (GB), Williams-Renault 1hr 54min 55.322sec
2. J. Villeneuve (Can), Williams-Renault, 1hr 12.187sec
3. J. Alesi (Fr), Benetton-Renault 14.754
4. R. Barrichello (Br), Jordan-Peugeot 55.131
5. E. Irvine (Ire), Ferrari, 1:04.981
6. J. Verstappen (Hol), Footwork-Hart, 1:08.913
7. D. Coulthard (GB), McLaren-Mercedes, 1:13.400
8. O. Panis (Fr), Ligier-Mugen Honda 1:14.295
9. J. Herbert (GB), Sauber-Ford V10, at one lap
10. A. Montemini (It), Forti-Ford V6, three laps

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1. Hill 30pts; 2. Villeneuve 12; 3. Alesi 10; 4. Irvine 6; 5. Hakkinen 5; 6. Schumacher 4; equal 7. Berger, Sato, Barrichello 3; equal 9. Panis and Verstappen 1. Constructors: 1. Williams-Renault 42; 2. Benetton-Renault 13; 3. Ferrari 10; 4. McLaren-Mercedes 5; equal 5. Tyrrell-Yamaha and Jordan-Peugeot 3; 6. Ugel-Mugen Honda 1.

REMAINING GRANDS PRIX: Apr 28: European, Nurburgring, Germany. May 5: San Marino, Imola. May 19: Spanish, Barcelona. June 2: Monaco, Monte Carlo. June 16: Canadian, Montreal. June 30: French, Magny Cours. July 14: British, Silverstone. July 28: German, Hockenheim. Aug 11: Hungarian, Budapest. Aug 25: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps. Sept 8: Italian, Monza. Sept 22: Portuguese, Estoril. Oct 13: Japanese, Suzuka.



Schumacher was forced to retire after 46 laps

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Davies excels at messing about on the river

Someone had clearly lavished a lot of care in making it, but they had laboured in vain. "We love your tache, Des," proclaimed the home-made banner flying from the roof of the Putney block of flats and I'm sure Des Lynam was very grateful, but sadly — at least for its creator — it was Steve Rider's turn to do *Grandstand*. Lynam, you see, does the Grand National. Rider does the Boat Race. Worth remembering for next year, perhaps.

Last year, Rider bravely presented the programme from the Putney embankment, where he was almost lost in a unruly sea of beer mugs and college sweatshirts. This year, someone had sensibly put him on a boat-house balcony. Here the only real problem he had to contend with was being

dwarfed by his guests. Modern oarsmen, we were repeatedly reminded, are very big indeed. Perhaps the BBC could lash out on a small set of steps for next year.

After an early wobble (upsetting the well-heeled, river-side residents of Putney, Barnes and Chiswick by describing the course as an "unremarkable stretch of river"), Rider recovered well and presented the build-up with his normal practised ease, helped by a technical team that could probably get the hairs on the back of your neck standing up before an under-five's egg and spoon race. Rider's knowledge of rowing, however, begins and ends with the Boat Race, as interviews with Steven Redgrave revealed. The BBC man can probably count himself lucky



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

not to have been thumped by Britain's greatest competing Olympian.

One of Rider's earlier guests was Chris Ballieu, Cambridge Blue, international oarsman and now BBC commentator, who dutifully said what he seems to say every year: "We really could be seeing a great race today, perhaps the best for many years." Sadly, the best race we saw on Saturday was a re-run of the 1980 Boat Race, provider of one of the closest finishes in Boat Race

history and the last to be commented on by the late John Snagge, Oxford held on to win by a canvas, but you would scarcely have known that by Snagge's wonderfully understated commentary. "This is an absolutely cracking race," marked the high-point of excitement.

Snagge, who died a fortnight ago, was a Boat Race institution. His current successor, Barry Davies, would like to become one and, just possibly, might. Davies, as we

know, is a *homme sérieux*, unstinting in his research, the appropriate literary quote (the managed Wordsworth at both the start and finish of the race). It is a style that can grate, but it is perfect for the Boat Race, a preposterously old-fashioned event that somehow still flourishes as a national institution.

Anyone can read an oarsman's height and weight off the programme's notes, but it takes the meticulously prepared Davies to tell us their histories, hobbies and engaging eccentricities. A competitor had only to mention that his father/grandfather had rowed in the race and the appropriate black and white clip would be wheeled out. It was all very impressive.

The one risk that Davies does run, though, is that of becoming an insider. It is only a year since his son, Mark, coxed Goldie to victory and his commentary still occasionally carries the stamp of the proud father, anxious to share his new-found technical knowledge with fellow men of the river rather than explain it to those who think a stretcher is something you use to carry off injured footballers.

This rather alienating air of mutual admiration was at its height during the one-sided reserve race, but for the race proper, Davies and team were back at their best helped by some quite superb pictures of the exciting first half of the race provided by the on-board, remote control cameras. It may not have been Liverpool versus Newcastle but it had definitely been the Boat Race.

Montgomerie and Woosnam aim for rousing finish

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MARLBOROUGH, GEORGIA

COLIN MONTGOMERIE and Ian Woosnam had little chance of catching David Duval, the leader, when the fourth round of the BellSouth Classic got under way at the Atlanta Country Club yesterday, but they were grateful for the chance to hone their games further in a competitive situation before driving to Augusta for this week's Masters. After their third rounds of 68, Montgomerie and Woosnam were on 215, one under par, nine strokes behind.

Duval's nearest challenger was Tommy Tolles, who finished second level, with Montgomerie in the Players' Championship last week, one stroke ahead of Duval. It was the second week in a row in which these two men have been separated by two strokes after three rounds, but it was Tolles, 29, who led going into the fourth round in Jacksonville.

Duval had unhappy memories of the final round in this tournament. Four years ago, when still an amateur, he led after 54 holes before falling back to finish equal thirteenth, thanks to a fourth round of 79. "I was intimidated by the position I was in," Duval recalled. "I thought I was

ready for it, but I wasn't." Tolles is one of the finds of the season. With his dark eyes and short hair, there is an intense, burning look about him. Last year, he was 116th on the money-list; last week, he jumped to third.

As Montgomerie has played only 11 rounds so far this year and Woosnam only 27, neither is what you would call "over-golfed" and further putting practice on greens very similar

Golf scores ———— 31

to Augusta's was just what the doctor ordered.

"Going early to Augusta and practising there is all very well," Sam Torrance had said on Friday, as he waited to see whether his 36-hole total of 146 would be good enough to beat the cut. "But it's better to be playing competitive golf on a good course."

Torrance, who comfortably made the cut, scored a 74 in his third round and added a fourth round of 70 that enabled him to set off for Augusta with a smile on his face, but some of the other foreign players had hardly set the course alight. Severiano

Ballesteros, Alexander Cejka, Sandy Lyle and Costantino Rocca missed the cut. Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, and Ernie Els, of South Africa, who both live in Florida, were five behind and seven behind respectively after three rounds.

At last the sun appeared over his part of the United States, raising the temperature to something more appropriate for this time of the year. It had been in the mid-forties on Friday and Saturday. "This isn't cold. It's not bad at all," Montgomerie said on Saturday, though there was a knifing wind and rain clouds lurked ominously overhead.

Last year, Stephen Keppeler, the former Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup player, and Jim Gallagher Jr, were tied for the lead after 54 holes, before being swept aside by a strong finish by Mark Calcavecchia.

They saw each other again last week at the start of the tournament. "See you on Sunday, same time, same place," Gallagher said to the Englishman. No such luck for Keppeler this year. As Gallagher prepared for his first drive of the fourth round, Keppeler was tugging with the 9th and looking, momentarily, like the club professional he is.

His third shot from the left rough flew out of the thick grass, over the green and into more clinging grass which was ankle-high. Fitting close out of there to a fast green that sloped away from him was more than Keppeler could manage.

His first putt raced past the hole, gathering speed all the time. He missed the ten-footer coming back and, suddenly, he had taken a seven on an uphill par-four hole of 420 yards. Having begun the day at three over par, he had fallen back to eight over and walked towards the next tee without much enthusiasm and sighing wearily.



Nicklaus, whose 65 included an albatross, acknowledges applause at the 18th

Nicklaus scores two at par five

HALE IRWIN responded to Jack Nicklaus's first albatross for 31 years with a seven-under par 65 to take a one-stroke lead into the final round of The Tradition in Scottsdale, Arizona, yesterday.

Irwin, recovering from a 76 in the second round when erratic winds forced all but a handful of players over par, matched his opening round to post a three-round total of 206, ten under par. "I guess there was a little act of redemption on my part to make sure that the 76 was a fluke and the 65 on Thursday wasn't," Irwin,

the 1995 Senior PGA Tour's rookie of the year, said.

Nicklaus, the defending champion, also shot a 65. After finishing first and sixth in two previous Senior Tour events this year, he came out of the pack with a remarkable run over the closing nine holes.

Four-under at the turn, he birdied the 11th, then gobbled up Irwin's lead with two monstrous shots on the 12th hole of the Cochrise Course, one of four Nicklaus has designed at Desert Mountain.

His 340-yard drive on the short par five left him 159

yards to the flag. He pulled out an eight-iron and landed the ball on the front of the green, from where it rolled into the hole.

It was his third albatross — or double eagle as the Americans term it. The first came while he was a teenager while the second was at the Jacksonville Open in 1965.

Nicklaus two-putted from 16 feet on the last hole for his fifth birdie.

Raymond Floyd, who won this title in 1994, started the final round a shot behind J. C. Snead, who was third on 208.

Sorenstam shares lead

ANNIKA SORENTAM, the Swede, made two costly visits to the rough but held on to shoot a one-over-par 73 and share the lead after the third round of the Twelve Bridges LPGA Classic in Lincoln, California.

Sorenstam, who dominated women's golf last year, looked ready to take her first title of the season when she shot 66 for a two-shot lead at halfway, but she was caught by Cindy Schreyer and Barb Mucha at six-under-par 207.

Sorenstam's troubles began on the par-four 7th when her

second shot hit a tree and her third found deep rough off the green. She chipped to ten feet but missed a bogey putt, dropping to six under for the tournament. Sorenstam had more trouble on the par-five 17th when her approach missed the green. She finished with four birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey.

Mucha and Schreyer each took a bogey and a double bogey. Mucha had five birdies in her round of 69 and Schreyer had an eagle and three birdies in shooting rounds of 68.

Martin retains her crown after outstanding final

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

MICHELLE MARTIN took her fourth successive British Open squash title at the Cardiff International Arena last night, defeating Sarah Fitzgerald, her Australian compatriot, 1-0, 9-5, 9-1, 9-7 in a 46-minute match that was widely regarded one of the best in the 75-year history of the event.

Martin, the No 1 seed, had to survive a determined fightback from 3-1 to 8-7 by Fitzgerald, the No 2 seed, in the fourth game, but then clinched the title with a penalty stroke in the fourth game.

In that counter-attack, Fitzgerald produced the same level of fierce driving and tenacious retrieving that took her to a 9-1 completion of the opening game in just five minutes. At

the end of that game, Martin was making repeated forehead errors to the tin, but, in the second, she took immediate control of the court to lead 4-0.

It was obvious then that the two Australians, who have dominated the women's circuit in recent times, were about to present the Cardiff crowd with one of their great encounters. Three early penalty strokes against Fitzgerald helped Martin, the defending champion, to take a 7-1 lead in the second game. A penalty stroke less well judged by William Winter, the referee, and a no-let decision at game ball ended Fitzgerald's hopes.

The third game produced nine minutes of competitive rallying which Martin, rather surprisingly, won 9-1. Martin led 3-3 in the fourth and it

looked all over, but Fitzgerald had other ideas, dragging herself back point by point to 3-7.

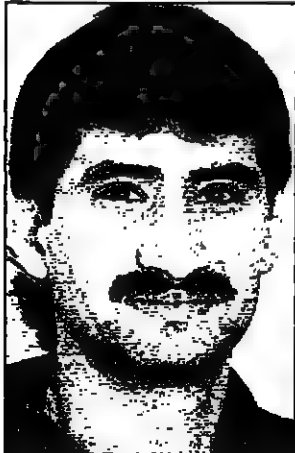
She survived five match-balls, broke her racket on the floor in frustration after missing a backhand boast that she knew she should have volleyed and finally lost the chance of a fifth game when Winter favoured the champion with a penalty stroke, the delay on which arguably deserved only a let.

Early enterprise featured in both men's semi-finals on Saturday, with Julien Bonet and Brett Martin each stealing the opening games before falling to the top seeds, Jansher Khan and Rodney Eyles, respectively.

Bonet, the world No 18, had become the first French semi-finalist in the event with a brilliant performance against Paul Johnson in the quarter-

finals. He staggered the defending champion by finishing the first game with a disguised forehand short boast that had the normally secure Pakistani sprawling, and surprised him again with a dangerous counter-attack from 12-4 to 12-9 in a single hand of the second, before subsiding 12-15, 15-9, 15-9, 15-6 in 58 minutes.

Martin, the elder brother of the women's champion, finished his first game with a backhand cross-court kick of extraordinary power and accuracy, but was increasingly inhibited from 7-7 in the second game by a leg problem, stemming from an ankle weakened by a collision with Del Harris in the PSA Super Series final two weeks ago. Eyles reached his first British Open final in 41 minutes, 13-15, 15-12, 15-3, 15-9.



Jansher: sent sprawling

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to	Weather	Last				
	L	Piste	Off-p	(5pm)	snow				
AUSTRIA									
Obergurgl	20	80	fair	heavy	slush	line	9	4/4	
		(Best above 2,500m, typical spring skiing)							
St Anton	30	140	fair	varied	closed	line	12	3/4	
		(32/33 lifts open, upper slopes good, low down slushy)							
FRANCE									
Alpe d'Huez	60	300	good	heavy	slush	sun	5	1/4	
		(7/82 lifts open, all upper runs remain good)							
Avalaz	110	120	good	heavy	slush	sun	3	2/4	
		(All 42 lifts open, great piste slush before midday)							
Chamonix	30	240	good	varied	closed	line	6	2/4	
		(North facing slopes above mid-station best)							
Tignes	105	190	good	heavy	slush	line	3	3/4	
		(Great skiing on all but lowest runs)							
Val Thorens	50	200	good	varied	slush	line	1	3/4	
		(All 25 lifts open, generally good spring skiing)							
SWITZERLAND									
Arosa	50	50	fair	varied	slush	line	2	4/4	
		(Best skiing first thing, heavy by midday)							
C Montana	0	210	fair	spring	closed	line	2	3/4	
		(Good skiing in morning above 2,300m, slushy pm)							
Verbier	15	170	good	varied	slush	line	1	4/4	
		(Great Easter skiing, odd worn patch below 2,300m)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Bond holds nerve to take final step

BY PHIL YATES

NIGEL BOND, successful in only one match at his previous six snooker tournaments of 1996, continued to erase the memory of that abysmal run by beating David Harold 6-5 to reach the final of the British Open in Plymouth yesterday.

Bond, a laconic 30-year-old from Darley Dale, edged Stephen Hendry 5-4 in the last 16 by holding himself together in a tense deciding frame and it was that quality that enabled him to emerge victorious from an error-strewn contest with Harold.

Such a result seemed a million miles away when Bond, the world No 12, arrived

in the West Country devoid of confidence after first-round eliminations from the Regal Welsh Open, European Open and Thailand Open in recent weeks.

Yet, while Bond readily admits he is still too prone to unforced errors, last year's Embassy world championship runner-up was proud of the manner in which he handled the pressure for a deciding frame finish.

Bond, fortunate to win the opener on the pink after fluking the blue to a baulk pocket off three cushions, led 4-3 thanks to a 62 break in the seventh frame, but Harold moved within sight of a place in today's final against Ronnie

O'Sullivan or John Higgins by dominating the next two.

Producing his best when it mattered most, Bond easily accounted for the tenth frame before pouncing on misjudged safety from Harold in the eleventh with a decisive run of 72.

Bond has lost on his three prior appearances in the final of a world ranking event and, once again, he will be the underdog against O'Sullivan, the 1994 British Open champion, or Higgins, the titleholder.

Higgins showed his unflappable temperament on Saturday during a 5-3 quarter-final win over John Parrott. Having watched the Liverpoolian

score 226 unanswered points at the start of the match — including a 139 total clearance — Higgins was entitled to be intimidated. However, the Scot rallied with an 82 clearance in the third, took the fourth frame with an 84 break and never surrendered the momentum.

O'Sullivan's challenge was in danger of ending when he had to have a new tip applied to his cue during the mid-session interval of his quarter-final against Mark Williams. Adjusting quickly, O'Sullivan led 4-3 with a 71 clearance from 5-40 in arrears in the seventh frame before sinking a 61 break in the eighth to seal a 5-3 success.

SPORT IN BRIEF

McRae struggles in Makinen's wake

COLIN McRAE will want to put the Safari Rally, which finished in Kenya yesterday, behind him as quickly as possible. The Scottish world rally champion, plagued by suspension problems with his Subaru Impreza, struggled throughout the race, including a collision with a 12-year-old spectator on Saturday, and after finishing in fourth place complained: "It's not very enjoyable fighting for world championship points in conditions like this. There's too much down to luck here."

The race was won by Tommi Makinen, of Finland, in a Mitsubishi, his second win of the series extending his world championship lead. Although Makinen had not been expected to win on his first attempt at the championship's roughest and fastest rally, he pulled away from Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, on the last of the three days, surviving a tyre blow-out and a flash flood to beat Eriksson in his Subaru.

Tide turns for Marines

CANOEING: Mark Phillips and Richard Lewis snatched victory from Philippe Houckeliet and Bod Dewitter, of Belgium, on the final tidal stages of the Devozes to Westminster race yesterday. Leaving late on Friday afternoon and last of the 130 crews attempting the non-stop doubles race, Phillips and Lewis were placed fourth during the early stages, but, by Newbury, 35 miles into the race, had secured second place.

Houckeliet and Dewitter had established an early lead of 12 minutes, but, by Teddington, this had been cut to six and, as the crews passed under Westminster Bridge, Phillips and Lewis, of the Royal Marines, had taken the lead and established a two-minute margin. This was Phillips's third victory in succession, paddling with Lewis in 1994 and Tony Alan-Williams in 1995.

Doohan riding high

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan, of Australia, right, the world 500cc champion, recovered from his disappointing start to the season by winning the Indonesian Grand Prix yesterday. Doohan, riding a Honda, finished fifth in the Malaysian Grand Prix, the opening race of the championship, last weekend, but made no mistake in Sentul, beating Alexandre Barros, of Brazil, by over 3sec.



Prean shows promise

TABLE TENNIS: Carl Prean, the former English national champion, who has had his worst season since becoming an international player, did enough to suggest that he still has a considerable future in the game despite a defeat by Wang Tao, of China, in the last-16 stage of the English Open at Kettering yesterday. Prean, who has suffered from injury and loss of form in recent months, was a convincing winner against Allan Bentsen, a Danish international, on Saturday, before going out 21-12, 21-14, 21-14 to Wang, the world No 3.

Wolstenholme wins

GOLF: Gary Wolstenholme, a member of the Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup team that beat the United States last September, made a good start to the season when he won the prestigious Duncan Putter open tournament for the second time in three years at Southerndown yesterday. A 72-hole total of 291 gave Wolstenholme, a Bristol and Clifton golfer, a three-stroke victory over Matthew Ellis, the Wales international, from Wrexham, who, in turn, was three strokes in front of Mark Smith, another Welshman.

Lovatt breaks through

CYCLING: Mark Lovatt, usually cast in the role of a support rider with the powerful Optimum Performance squad, won the 34-mile third stage of the Girvan three-day race yesterday, with a finishing sprint that defeated David Williams, the 1994 national champion, and Kevin Dawson, his team-mate. It was a demanding day's racing, with three big climbs that tested the riders' strength. Williams starts the hilly 65-mile final round today as overall leader by 37sec from Lovatt.

Paulus springs surprise

TENNIS: Barbara Paulus, of Austria, right, beat Conchita Martinez, of Spain, the world No 2, and defending titleholder, 7-6, 6-4 to reach the final of the WTA Family Circle Cup at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, yesterday. Paulus was due to meet Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, of Spain — who beat Jana Novotna, of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2 in the last four — in the final.



Real reach crisis point

FOOTBALL: Real Madrid, six times the winners of the European Cup, are facing the prospect of exclusion from European competition for only the second time in their history. Real lost 1-0 at home to struggling Sporting Gijón yesterday, leaving them in seventh place in the Spanish league, four points away from a Uefa Cup qualifying position, with just seven games remaining. Real announced yesterday that they will decline any invitation to play in the Interoto Cup this summer.

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Semi-final honours go to McCoist and Laudrup after tense struggle

Firm resolve ensures Rangers win argument

Celtic 1
Rangers 2

By KEVIN MCCARRA

RANGERS, now unbeaten in six Old Firm matches this season, won not only the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final, but also an argument that has lingered for months. Some had acclaimed Celtic, who carried to Hampden Park a run of 29 domestic matches without defeat, as the more polished team. Yesterday, though, it was Rangers, particularly through Gascoigne and Laudrup, who glinted.

A late frenzy of attacking by Celtic, in which Van Hooijdonk headed home from McNamara's cross in the 82nd minute and Donnelly twice missed glaring opportunities, put Rangers' victory in jeopardy, but it was deserved all the same. Walter Smith's team will now meet Hibernian at Midlothian in the final on May 18.

An hour before the game started, the players ambled around the pitch, making the pretence that they faced no more than an afternoon of hands-in-pocket chit-chat. Among them was Gascoigne, distinguished from the rest of the Rangers party by the mobile phone at his ear and the absence of blazer or tie.

His shirt may have been open-necked, but few men ever manage to be unbent in an Old Firm game itself. On this occasion, the anxiety count may have been higher than ever. It was the referee, Les Mottram, who was dependable in those early stages, operating a draconian policy that saw McKinlay and

McStay, of Celtic, as well as Brown and Durie, of Rangers, booked for minor disorders.

Only McCall and Cleland, for the Ibrox side, really deserved their bookings before the interval. Too many players, however, found the fear of a dismissal added to all the other apprehensions that beset them in Old Firm games. In consequence, a typical piece of action would see an elementary pass placed half a yard askew, shattering whatever rhythm there had been.

There was scant evidence to make any deduction whatsoever and only one vivid incident argued that Rangers might again prove the more predatory team. McLaughlin lost possession, after 18 minutes, and Gascoigne angled a pass through the right of the Celtic defence to McCoist. Allowed so much space, the forward almost strolled through and wide of the goalkeeper, but the laconic finish he intended was denied as the lunging Boyd forced the ball away.

That sort of flagrant opportunity was beyond Celtic's capacity before the interval. Although they often enjoyed a territorial advantage, the routines that serve them so well in ordinary matches were proving unreliable here. McKinlay, for example, who created four of his team's five goals against Aberdeen last week, could not gauge his crosses and tended to overshoot the target or leave Goram with an inviting catch.

At their best, Celtic have been a finely integrated team and it was significant here that their most stirring moment of the first half was, uncharacter-



McLaughlin, the Celtic midfielder, takes on Cleland during yesterday's semi-final at Hampden Park

istically, an expression of individualism when, after quarter of an hour, Thom whipped a 30-yarder just over the bar.

Team-work was a rare feat, but there were glimpses of it in Rangers' play, particularly when Gascoigne worked his way into position, through a one-two with Durie, before shooting meekly at Marshall. When a goal did come, however, it contained the arbitrary element that exerts such influence in these fixtures.

The faint possibility that Gough, the injured Rangers

captain, might be available had flickered out, but Robertson was back in the team. Haphazard use of the ball can limit his influence, but sheer speed on the left allows the full back to trouble a defence.

A minute from the interval, he was in an advanced position to take Laudrup's through-pass and deliver an angled drive. It may have been running wide, but Marshall dived for the ball, failed to hold it and McCoist stroked it home. It was McCoist's 26th goal in Old Firm matches,

leaving him one adrift of the record held by Jimmy McGrory, the champion of Celtic's cause in the Thirties.

The tone of the second half argued that the Rangers man might advance his tally still further as his team began to relax and relish the space provided by Celtic's need to be reckless.

Durie should have scored after 50 minutes, but blasted Laudrup's pass high. Another piece of insight by the Dane put Robertson free ten minutes later, but his effort was

cleared from the line by Boyd. Finding the assistance so unsatisfactory, Laudrup added the second goal himself, lobbing Marshall after a one-two with McCall after 68 minutes. Despite the late resurgence by Celtic, it was Rangers who possessed the unanswerable flair.

CELTIC (4-4-2): 1. McStay; 2. Brown; 3. Thomson; 4. McGuffee; 5. Gough; 6. McLaughlin; 7. Durie; 8. McCall; 9. McCoist; 10. Smith; 11. Boyd. **RANGERS** (4-4-2): 1. Boyd; 2. Brown; 3. Thomson; 4. McGuffee; 5. Gough; 6. McLaughlin; 7. Durie; 8. McCall; 9. McCoist; 10. Smith; 11. Boyd.

Little's charges proving they have something to shout about

Chelsea 1
Aston Villa 2

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THIS was a more convincing victory than the scoreline suggests and Aston Villa were very much Chelsea's better. It is often said of teams at this time of year that they have nothing to play for, but Villa's performance on Saturday gave the lie to that. Clearly, they have plenty to say before the season ends.

It is possible for them to finish third, ahead of Liverpool, although their qualification for Europe through the League Cup means they can rest easy. What is more important for Brian Little, who is building a promising team, is that they continue to grow in an organic way. If he buys wisely this summer and retains those players he has already got, they may be strong enough to challenge Manchester United and Liverpool next season.

Villa have been this way before, of course. When they won the League Cup two years ago, beating Manchester United, it was assumed they were on the right road when, in fact, it was the work of a side that had just one big hit. Little's team is better equipped to face the future and if he adds a centre half and another striker to it, this group of players will be capable of jousting with the best.

It is unrealistic to expect McGrath to carry on much longer, though he was excellent once again at Stamford Bridge, despite conceding a first-half penalty that Wise allowed Borrich to save. It was a costly miss. Had Wise scored, Chelsea would have gone two goals clear. Instead, they went to pieces as Villa took a firm grip.

Spencer had put Chelsea in front after seven minutes with

a crisp shot from the edge of the area and, for the first half-hour they were worth that lead even if, in the absence of the suspended Hughes, Furlong laboured in attack. Wise did not achieve much despite niggling in his usual manner and he gave way to Peacock long before the end.

Villa's equaliser came from Milosevic's head after Wright's shot took a helpful deflection off Duberry. Milosevic does many things well, but too often spoils the general effect by shooting wildly and ignoring teammates in better

positions. Perhaps Villa should invest in an English-Serbo-Croat dictionary that includes the word "pass". Hithcock, in the Chelsea goal, played Villa on his own in the second half, saving splendidly from Milosevic, Yorke and Draper. He could do nothing to prevent Yorke striking the winner after Milosevic, for once, provided a decent pass. Yorke took that chance well and had another productive afternoon. He looks a different player now from the one who struggled to keep down a first-team place not so long ago.

CHelsea (2-5-3): 1. Hithcock; 2. Duberry; 3. Milosevic; 4. Wright; 5. Peacock; 6. Furlong; 7. Hughes; 8. Spencer; 9. Wise; 10. Peacock; 11. Borrich. **ASTON VILLA** (2-5-3): 1. M. Borrich; 2. G. Wright; 3. P. Wright; 4. S. Wright; 5. S. Wright; 6. S. Wright; 7. S. Wright; 8. S. Wright; 9. S. Wright; 10. S. Wright; 11. S. Wright.

Le Tissier enjoys spotlight

Southampton 1
Blackburn Rovers 0

By PAT GIBSON

IT WAS, Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, said, the hallmark of a high-class player. With ten minutes to go and the club's future in the FA Carling Premiership possibly hanging on the outcome, Matthew Le Tissier stepped up and drove a penalty unerringly past Tim Flowers in the Blackburn Rovers goal.

"Now people might understand why I have stuck by him," Merrington said, in a reference to all those doubters — Terry Venables, the English coach, included — who have questioned the quality of one of the most mercurial talents in the game.

That match-winning penalty was the culmination of a virtuoso performance that upstaged the three Southampton old boys — Flowers, Kenna and Shearer — who left The Dell for a total of £7.5 million.

Le Tissier has always said that he has no wish to follow them unless Southampton are relegated and it was as though the very real prospect of that happening had galvanised him into a return to form after five months without a goal.

His barren spell had prompted him to give up the captaincy because he thought it was affecting his game, but, with Venison and Hall absent, Merrington asked him to take it on again on Saturday.

Full results and league tables ... Page 24

"He just said 'I think it's right for me to do it today'," Merrington explained, "and I thought he was magnificent."

Blackburn, the fallen champions, certainly had no one to match him. Shearer was back after injury, but Southampton, with two full backs, Dodd and Benali, in the middle of their defence and a midfield player, Widderington, sweeping, re-

stricted him to two chances, one pulled wide after Kenna hit a post, the other blocked by Benali.

Le Tissier, by contrast, was a constant threat with his long-range shooting, cunning free kicks and corners and perceptive passing. It was no more than he deserved when he conjured up the goal with a delightful chip over the Blackburn defence. Flowers would probably have beaten Shipperley to it, but Coleman hauled the Southampton man back to give away the penalty.

It would be premature to say that Le Tissier has saved Southampton's season, because their five remaining fixtures include playing Aston Villa and Newcastle United away and Manchester United at home, but at least he has given them hope.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): 1. B. Benali; 2. Widderington; 3. Benali; 4. Nelson; 5. Hughes; 6. T. Dodd; 7. N. Shearer; 8. Widderington; 9. Widderington; 10. Widderington; 11. Widderington.

Forest rely heavily on supply of Woan goals

Nottingham Forest 2
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By A CORRESPONDENT

"ALL we are saying," the *Forest* fanzine implored, "is give us some goals." The four strikers pictured on the cover did not respond to that plea, but the editor left the City Ground content that Nottingham Forest's prospects of a place in the UEFA Cup next season are still flickering.

Over the past week, the club's manager, Frank Clark, has briefed increasingly at speculation concerning strikers in whom he has allegedly expressed interest. Here, Dean Saunders, there, Dean Holdsworth, on Saturday, Bayern Munich's Frenchman, Jean-Pierre Papin. He denied each emphatically.

Nevertheless, his failure to adequately replace Stan Collymore is the single most important reason why Forest will not emulate last season's third-place finish in the FA Carling Premiership. When Woan put them 2-0 ahead on Saturday, he joined Roy as their leading scorer with nine goals.

Forest took the lead after 40 minutes through Stone's close-range finish. It was Tottenham however, who had had the better chances previously.

Roy went off with a hamstring injury after the first half and, thereafter, Forest were a busier, more effective unit. When Armstrong rose to head in Sheringham's cross with ten minutes remaining, it was against the run of play. Tottenham have now lost three times to Forest this season. "Frankly, I wish they'd get relegated," Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said. "When Woan isn't curling free kicks past us from impossible angles with his left foot, he's smashing them in from 30 yards with his right. How does he do it?"

One day, Woan might reveal his secret; perhaps he should tell his own strikers first. **NOTTINGHAM FOREST** (4-4-2): 1. M. Crossley; 2. D. Woan; 3. C. Cooper; 4. S. Christie; 5. Pearson; 6. P. McGee; 7. S. Quinn; 8. W. Smith; 9. S. Stone; 10. S. Stone; 11. S. Stone.

No accident about Bolton's plight

Everton 3
Bolton Wanderers 0

By MARK HODKINSON

A GOAL conceded by your team in the first few minutes of a match is regarded as a disastrous start, so how does it rank when your top scorer collides with your leading player and injures his shoulder before the kick-off, as happened to Bolton Wanderers on Saturday?

During the pre-match warm-up, McGinlay ran into the back of Curic and, though the Scotsman's apologies were copious, the Serbian scowled gloomily and spent much of the match rubbing the muscles at the top of his arm.

It was ominous to say the least and proof, perhaps, that Bolton and good fortune had finally parted company. After this defeat against Everton, the same could be said of Bolton and the FA Carling Premiership, since they are now five points adrift of safety.

Everton deserved the win,

though it was achieved against a team stricken by the kind of lethargy usually brought on by flu — the strain which makes a stroll through the park feel like a hike up Snowdon with Jan Moily on your back.

"I felt we won very comfortably," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. "Bolton's first shot on target came only minutes from time. It was very one-sided." He had genuine words of sympathy, too. "I'm sad for Bolton. It makes their task harder. I have a lot of affection for the people there. I think they still have an outside chance, but it is going to be difficult now."

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, issued the routine fighting talk, but, on a day when relegation rivals Coventry and Southampton recorded wins, he was explicit about his team's future. "It has got to be four wins from the last four games," now," Todd said. "Once again, we have a mountain to climb but there is no magic formula. We did not seem to have the passion

today, especially in the first half. Football is strange, but we are running out of games."

Everton's first goal came via a circuitous assist from Ferguson. Much of Ferguson's allure is based upon what he might do as much as what he actually does. He has a charisma that makes defenders jittery and Stubbs, aware that Ferguson was drawing close, mistimed a simple header. The ball broke free and Hottinger drove home.



Kanchelskis: pace

The goal came during a long spell when Coleman, who would ordinarily have marked Ferguson, was receiving stitches for a cut on his cheek. It seemed a curious decision by Todd not to replace Coleman because it meant his depleted team had to face a vastly superior side for almost a third of the match.

Everton continued to dominate a languid game and their second goal came when Hinchcliffe played a ball over the top and Kanchelskis, so far ahead of the pack he might have been painting the perimeter fence behind the goal, ran on, rounded Ward, and effectively sealed the win.

Amokachi had one final charge into the Bolton area and steadied himself to repel two timid challenges before firing into the far corner.

EVERTON (4-3-3): 1. Seaman; 2. Webster; 3. D. Wright; 4. Hinchcliffe; 5. A. Grant; 6. J. Ebbell; 7. R. Johnson; 8. B. Home; 9. Kanchelskis; 10. Ferguson; 11. Kanchelskis.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): 1. G. Ward; 2. G. Ward; 3. G. Ward; 4. G. Ward; 5. G. Ward; 6. G. Ward; 7. G. Ward; 8. G. Ward; 9. G. Ward; 10. G. Ward; 11. G. Ward.

Sunderland close in on top-flight return

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SUNDERLAND will move to within one victory of promotion to the FA Carling Premiership if they record their eleventh win in their past 12 games against Charlton Athletic at Roker Park today.

Craig Russell, with his thirteenth goal of the season, put the Endsleigh Insurance League first division leaders ahead after 24 minutes against Barnsley at Oakwell on Saturday and Peter Reid's team clung on to their advantage despite having Paul Stewart sent off for elbowing Adrian Moses just before half-time.

Victory took Sunderland ten points clear of third-placed Crystal Palace, who lost 1-0 at home to Leicester City, and 13 ahead of Charlton, who have a game in hand of the leaders. A sixth straight home win today would leave Sunderland needing three points from their final five games to regain their place in the top flight after a five-year absence.

Russell, injured after scoring, could be missing, allowing Michael Bridges to partner Stewart up front. Reid, who paid tribute to his side's resolve under non-stop second-half pressure, said: "We know where we are and what we've got to do. I'm

desperate to do it and I know the supporters are."

Derby County's win over Oldham Athletic, whose plight was worsened by Reading's surprise victory at Ipswich, moved Jim Smith's side a step closer to the other automatic promotion place. Paul Simpson's penalty proved decisive at Boundary Park.

Rob Edwards's sixth goal since his £150,000 move from Crewe Alexandra helped Huddersfield Town to a 3-1 home win over Southend and dealt a play-off blow to the visitors. Another came at St Andrew's, where Paul Peschisolidi scored his first goal since returning to Birmingham City in the 3-1 win over Port Vale.

At the bottom, Watford's struggle looks in vain after a 2-1 home defeat at the hands of Portsmouth had left them seven points adrift of the field and 12 behind 21st-placed Reading with seven matches left.

In the race to replace them, Swindon Town regained leadership of the second division and need ten points from their last eight matches to be certain of promotion after the 1-0 home defeat of Notts County. Kevin Horlock scored a minute from time.

Beauchamp brings blues to Blackpool

Oxford United 1
Blackpool 0

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

THERE were no takers at the Manor Ground for bookmakers' odds of 5-1 against an Oxford double of three points and one Boat Race and long after Cambridge had edged out the Dark Blues, a 0-0 draw still looked the best that Oxford United could expect from a tough, tight game against Blackpool.

Then a spectacular late goal gave the home side a fortunate victory that strengthened their claim to a play-off place and knocked the visitors off the top of the Endsleigh Insurance League second division.

The first half had been a grim affair, Blackpool looking marginally the more composed. The only highlights were a simmering feud between Ford and Quinn and a sixth-minute flurry during which Nixon, the Blackpool goalkeeper, saved from Beauchamp and Robinson in quick succession.

Both teams did better playing towards their own supporters after half-time. The visitors had a headed "goal" by Morrison from Mellon's

corner disallowed and saw a carbon-copy move bring a superb save from Whitehead before Oxford broke the deadlock after 83 minutes.

Beauchamp, who has made a prodigious return to his hometown club after brief and unhappy spells with West Ham United and Swindon Town, swung his foot at a clearance 30 yards out and the ball sailed into the top corner past Nixon's right hand.

"I wasn't even sure it had gone in when it dropped," Beauchamp said. "I had another look back to check as I was running away to celebrate. It might be the most important goal I've scored."

Sam Allardyce, the Blackpool manager, acknowledged the quality of the goal. "He'll probably never score one like that again," Allardyce said. "I hate losing, but when you've gone down to the two goals we have in our last two games, there's very little you can do. It had to be something special to beat us. We deserved a draw at least on our second-half performance."

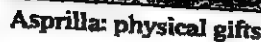
OXFORD UNITED (4-4-2): 1. Whitehead; 2. Robinson; 3. Elliott; 4. G. Ward; 5. M. Ford; 6. M. Gray; 7. M. Gray; 8. M. Gray; 9. M. Gray; 10. M. Gray; 11. M. Gray.

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From 12 points clear of Manchester United to three points behind; you do not need to be Sherlock Holmes to deduce that something has gone amiss and if, because of one man, a team changes both its shape and its nature, you do not need to scan hard for clues. Newcastle soared effortlessly to

Meanwhile, Beardsley was playing on the right of a four-man midfield, which is rather like giving Marcel Proust a job as a librarian. Actually, Proust did have a job as a librarian, but never turned up for work. Beardsley always turns up.

Ferdinand missed what chances were not saved. He had a grim day, relieved only by his continuous effort. Asprilla, however, was rather wonderful. He is a one-off, this man, and I have a theory about him: he is so extraordinarily — and this is not a racist comment — flexible that he makes bizarre body-shapes as he moves. Defenders, read bodies,

Yet Asprilla's unusual physical gifts make him almost unreadable. Add to this, breathtaking control, a sharp mind and considerable physical power and you have quite a player. An asset to any team, you would have thought, and certainly Keegan thought so. But, with less than 15 minutes to go, Newcastle were a goal down, for all the shards of magic from Asprilla. Their season was in dead man walking.

Queens Park Rangers had come to Newcastle as bottom fighters against relegation, but during the

If you thought that was good, wait for the punch-line. Four minutes on, Beardsley seemed to explode — the man is a genius when the fit is on him. Bursting into the box, past two players, he produced a shot that

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2) S Heston — S
Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, J Boreford — P
Beardsley, R Lee (sub. K Gillespie, 66min) D Barry
D Grinoh — I Ferdinand, F Asprici

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2) J Sommer — D
Bardley, S Yates, A McDonald, R Brett — A
Impey, R Wilkins, I Holloway, T Sinclair — D Dicho
(sub. M Hoteley, 76) K Gaton

United emerge stirred but not shaken

BY PETER BALL

Entertain despite p

Schmeichel spreads his wings as Kavelashvili, scorer of City's first equaliser, goes for goal at Maine Road. Photograph: Ian Stewart

ment down romising

FIXTURES

MANCHESTER UNITED: Today: Coventry City (H) Apr 13; Southampton (A) Apr 17; Leeds United (H) Apr 22; Nottingham Forest (H) May 6; Middlesbrough (A).

NEWCASTLE UNITED: Today: Blackburn Rovers (A) Apr 14; Aston Villa (H) Apr 17; Southampton (H) Apr 22; Leeds United (H) May 2; Nottingham Forest (A) May 6.

LIVERPOOL: Today: West Ham United (H) Apr 16; Everton (H) Apr 22; Middlesbrough (H) May 1; Arsenal (A) May 6; Manchester City (A).

MANCHESTER CITY (3-5-2): E Inman — R Symons, K Curle, R Brightwell — M Sutton, M Barber, N Clough, G Kirkland, M Brown, M Frontbeck (sub: M Phillips, 46min) — M Kaveshvili (sub: U Röster, 68p, N Conn).

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): F Schmechel — P Neville, S Bruce (sub: C May, 74p, G Neville, D Innes — D Beckett, N Butt, R Keane, R Giggis — A Cole (sub: I Sharpe, 74p, E Cantoni).

Referee: M Reed.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE				
	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Manchester Utd	33	70	+30	WDWWWW
2 Newcastle	33	67	+27	LWLWLW
3 Liverpool	33	62	+33	DWLWL
4 Aston Villa	33	58	+17	WWLDWW
5 Arsenal	33	57	+17	WWLWW
6 Everton	34	54	+18	LDLWW
7 Tottenham	33	54	+10	LWLWL
8 Nottingham Forest	32	50	+7	WDWLW
9 Blackburn	33	48	+7	DWWLL
10 West Ham	33	48	+5	DWLWD
11 Chelsea	33	45	-1	LDLWL
12 Leeds	33	42	-8	LDLWL
13 Middlesbrough	34	40	-10	LDWW
14 Sheffield Wed	33	38	-10	LWLWL
15 Wimbledon	33	34	-16	DLWWD
16 Southampton	33	31	-17	LWLWL
17 Manchester City	34	31	-24	DWLDL
18 Coventry	33	30	-20	DLLWL
19 QPR	34	27	-20	LDLWL
20 Bolton	34	26	-30	WLWL

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

Evans surveys wreckage of his title dream

By ALYSON RUDD

Furious indignation was etched over the faces on the Liverpool bench, which had been almost relaxed in confident anticipation that there were at least another five minutes of the game left. It had been a match littered with

card for kicking the ball away, you get a yellow card for breaking somebody's leg," the Liverpool manager said. "It doesn't look sensible to me."

So the cup of excuses runneth over, but, as Evans acknowledged, the FA Cup



COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2) S Ogruzovic — A Pocking, L Daint, D Busst, B Barrows (sub: E Jess, 58min) — P Telfer, P Williams, K Richardson, P Nicholson (sub: J Selako, 65) — N Whelan, D Dublin.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2) D Thomas — J Scates, S Harkness (sub: M Thomas, 64), D Matted — J McAleer, S McMahonan, J Redknapp, J Barnes, R Jones (sub: I Rush, 74) — R Fowler, S Collymore.

Referee: P Jones.

Entertainment down the tube despite promising platform

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT STARTED promisingly and then ground to a halt. The trip to Upton Park, that is, on the day that London Underground ceased to function. Being stranded in a tunnel is not the best way to prepare for an Easter Saturday of supposed leisure and pleasure, but at least the kick-off was delayed to accommodate most of the late arrivals.

It started promisingly and then ground to a halt. The match at Upton Park, that is, on a day when neither side functioned properly. Goals in the opening ten minutes from Dicks and Jones, those shaver-headed warriors, augured well for an FA Cupred Premiership encounter of little initial appeal.

That was about it, though. The rest was like being stuck on the tube, with the train starting and stopping every couple of minutes. Hope followed by frustration; optimism by despair. In the end,

Dicks and Jones shook hands at the start, captains if not marvels, and set the tone. Dicks, now without a booking

Redknapp, happy and calm, bade farewell, while Kinnear, defiant to the end, sensed survival. They had reason to be satisfied. At least they had guaranteed transport home.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-2-2; L McKee — B Brooker, S Ellis, M Hooper, J Dicks — M Hooper, P Houghton, I Leacock, R Townsend (sub R Slater, 64 min) — Dant, I Downie)

WIRRELDON (4-0-2; N Sullivan — N Ardley, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kettle — E Jackson, G Jones, I Leacock, J Smith, J Goodwin (sub J Goodwin, 87), J Goodwin (sub J Goodwin, 87))

WOLVES (4-0-2; P Castledine, A Clarke, P Durkin).

Coventry aiming for repeat performance

By PETER BALI

Newcastle have the harder task at Blackburn, who are formidable at Ewood Park — only Manchester United, Spartak Moscow and Liverpool have won there this

Manchester City have drawn the short straw, a visit to Wimbledon — just what you need after a draining, desperately close defeat in a derby. Dean Holdsworth testified that his team need one or two more wins to be safe. If they get one this afternoon, City's light will be dimmed, if not extinguished.

Peace accord leaves Wright free to make No 1 record

BY KEITH PIKE

At 32 and, in his view, with three or four years left at the top — "I feel fit, I live clean and I don't drink 'til all hours in the morning" — Wright was

everything has been much better since. We have agreed to disagree." He now accepts that Rioch is doing a very difficult job "extremely well" and that his criticism had not made that job any easier. Wright wrong as well as wronged, on his own admission.

"I don't want to leave and deep down I think I will be an Arsenal player next season."

"Hopefully, I am going to finish my career here and ride off into the sunset with that record," Wright said.

For all the sterile, mistake-ridden monotony of the match, Leeds deserved a draw, even if their goal — deflected past Seaman by Deane's midriff from Speed's harmless shot — was a fluke.

ARSENAL (3-4-1-2): D Seaman • M Keown • P Winger • P Pires • P F. Wiersma • D Platt, M Winstoun • D Bergkamp • J Hartson • I Wright

LEEDS UNITED (3-1-4-2): J Buxton • G Kelly • D Whelan • C Palmer • J Radocha • M Miller • C Speed • J Harris • R Brown

Referee: J. Wither

Full results and league tables ... Page 24

helped to clear the air. "Sometimes you do and say things that you regret later, but

everything has been much better since. We have agreed to disagree." He now accepts that Rioch is doing a very difficult job "extremely well" and that his criticism had not made that job any easier. Wright wrong as well as wronged, on his own admission.

"I don't want to leave and deep down I think I will be an Arsenal player next season."

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Defending champions refuse to try creative approach

Leicester 15
Wasps 12

By Peter Bills

THE great debate concerning English rugby's future has tended to overlook one important aspect. Whatever the eventual financial arrangements off the field, it is ultimately the product itself that will determine the success or failure of club rugby.

In a week in which football produced a club match between Liverpool and Newcastle United of memorable skill, pace and invention, rugby union needs to reflect on how it intends to deliver similarly exalted levels of entertainment. This match, for example, was a classic illustration of how English rugby has become bogged down.

In a professional sport, grim wars of attrition like this are not what the sponsor and television companies have in mind. Coaches and players who indulge in such mind-numbing contests risk the eventual financial demise of their clubs. English football at the top level has learnt this lesson; rugby has yet to do so.

The influx of foreign talent has transformed football's FA Cup Premiership. It is becoming clear that rugby needs exposure to a similar inspiration from both players and coaches. The creative work that a leading world coach such as Bob Dwyer could do with a club like Leicester is badly needed. Considering that they are defending champions and next month's cup finalists, a club with a proud reputation and a rich history of entertainment, Leicester are falling rugby as a whole.

Brian Campbell, the referee, was at his wit's end trying to apportion blame for the constant scrummage col-



Dallaglio: inspirational

lapses. These have become a blight on the English game. Leicester again relied totally on Liley's kicking to grind out another win. He landed four penalty goals, after Malone's early dropped goal, before Malone departed with an ankle injury that allowed Liley to move up to stand-off half and kick even more.

The tasty option of Underwood at full back as a strike runner into the line was employed just once and it took a marvellous corner-flag tackle from the inspirational Dallaglio to prevent a try. Otherwise, there was no semblance of creative running or back play.

Wasps were no better in that respect. Gomersall is nowhere near the talent many had forecast and, like Gregory, kicked poorly. Neither pair of halves could launch their backs, so the game stuttered along, with nobody able to develop it further. All Wasps' starting efforts up front in bravely taking on a formidable Leicester pack, albeit missing Richards, and giving them plenty to think about went to waste.

The climax to the match was revealing. Leicester's 12-3 lead with Liley's fourth penalty shrank to 12-9 through Gregory's second dropped goal and first goal.

Another Liley goal made it 15-9, but Wasps stormed back and their opponents were caught offside in the 22.

With three minutes remaining and a converted try sufficient for victory, Wasps had a marvellous attacking position to go for the winning score. Astonishingly, Gregory kicked the penalty and Leicester escaped.

Rob Smith, the Wasps coach, defended the decision and added: "Besides, we hadn't really looked like scoring a try in the previous 77 minutes." Precisely.

SCORES: Leicester: Penalty goals: Liley (4), Dropped goal: Malone (1), Wasps: Pen- (4), Dropped goal: Gregory (2), Dropped goal: Liley (1).
LEICESTER: J. Liley, S. Hearn, J. Owens, R. Pritchard, J. Underwood, J. Malone, A. Gomersall, G. Gregory, A. Cockerill, D. Gurnall, J. Wells, J. Johnson, P. Poles, N. Black, W. Johnson (captain), replaced by J. Hamilton (30min).
WASPS: J. Liley, S. Hearn, J. Owens, A. James, G. Hearn, J. Gomersall, D. Gurnall, J. Johnson, J. Hamilton, M. Greenfield, R. Kinsley, I. Dallaglio, P. Schuster.
Referee: B. Campbell (Yorkshire).

Bath subdue Harlequins to enhance championship chances



Callard releases the ball just before he is tackled by Watson, of Harlequins, as Bath demolish their nearest rivals at the Recreation Ground. Photograph: Paulo Minoli

Stirring struggle points way ahead

Bath 41
Harlequins 15

By David Hand
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ON ONE point, at least, both clubs were agreed. This was the kind of ambitious approach and fluid game that, if club rugby in the northern hemisphere is to mean anything in comparison with the provinces of the south, must become the norm. In its wake, will follow the commercial spin-offs to fund the professional game.

Thereafter comes the parting of the ways. Bath, first in the Courage Clubs Championship, showed a precision and playing intelligence that Harlequins — second in the table before this match at the Recreation Ground — have yet to come near. The positive side for the London club is that they have the resources and desire to do so.

Obviously, this was the game in which Bath's charge towards a sixth league title might have faltered. Instead, it drew from their players, in

the second half, the best rugby they have played all season — and that is saying something. Rather than a close-run contest, it became a record league victory over Harlequins by a margin that might have been greater but for two stunning tackles in the first half and a curious reluctance by the Bath forwards to free more ball in the dying moments.

This is what Bath players, and others from outside the club, seek to be part of. It is Bath's biggest negotiating tool, so that when such players as Ben Clarke are linked with Richmond, or Nigel Redman with Moseley, they must first pause to consider what they would leave behind: the tradition of victory, the *esprit de corps*, the forward-thinking management offered by John Hall, Brian Ashton and Ged Roddy.

"I feel extremely positive that we will keep most of our squad," Hall, the team manager, said. "There is talk about Ben and I would like him to make a decision fairly quickly." Should the England back-row forward depart, Bath are in the happy position of having Eric Peters, Scotland's No. 8, who played what one

Bath official described as his best game for the club on Saturday.

In fact, Bath were caught cold by a Harlequins side that has racked up the points in recent league games and possesses the confidence to play a wide game. The schoolboy curtain-raiser denied both teams the chance to warm up properly and, within 15

minutes, Harlequins had scored two tries but also demonstrated vividly the essential difference between themselves and Bath.

Watson, outstanding at No. 8, won possession to create the base for a glorious 70-metre attack during which Harlequins nearly managed to waste a three-to-one overlap before Callard collected a bouncing ball to score. In piecing together their first try, Bath left nothing to chance: the half-break by de Glanville, the support from Peters, Robinson, Callard and Dawson.

The finish by Sleightholme — all clinical and absorbing to watch. "We understand where we have to improve and it endorsed our thoughts about the team's performance this season," Dick Best, the Harlequins director of rugby, said. "Bath are the best, by a long way. They saw where we were good and possession dried up. They were brutally effective."

To such a degree that Harlequins scarcely won a second-half line-out, received only five penalties in the entire game and were constantly robbed of possession. From an interval lead of 15-9, they conceded 32 points. Bath having responded so well to the half-time message from Ashton, their coach, to play more direct rugby.

"We have talked all season about being at our best when we go directly at the opposition," Ashton said. "We had a long, hard look at ourselves after the cup semi-final with Gloucester, when we lost our way in terms of the balance of the game." Thus Harlequins had to endure the judicious mix of a superb midfield, strategic kicking and powerful tight loose play from the forwards which asked far too many questions.

Results and tables 31

not when confronted with a lesser team. There was a goodish crowd, but there were others who might have looked on to see that, since their own club had diminished the value of the match, it was not worth their bother either.

This is a slippery route. Swansea had been down this path and, with the Barbarians themselves searching around for players, turned the fixture into one of total insignificance. Rather than see this Easter Saturday match dwindle and find their own reputation decline, far better for the Barbarians to terminate the fixture. For the sake of their own sense of place in the rugby world and the affection in which they are held, it is better they make a dignified withdrawal.

If Wales cannot find a place for them, then the Barbarians should find the welcome of friends elsewhere. "We are getting invitations from all

parts of the world," Windsor-Lewis said. "Japan is already on the itinerary. Italy is in the pipeline. Perhaps that is the way for the future of the club."

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This match was a mixture of good and bad. There were marvellous moments of running and sleight of hand. Moments of excruciating error, too. For Cardiff, Rayer and Walker had chances to run in the backs, as did Booth and Ringer among the forwards. For the Barbarians, Pichot, at scrum-half, was ubiquitous, as was Morrison and his fellow back-row men.

SCORES: Cardiff: Tries: Walker (2), Rayer, Colclough, C. John, Wells, Sone. Conversions: C. John (7). Barbarians: Tries: Morrison (2), Sone, Gathers, Chavert, Evans, penalty by C. Hearn (1).
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Walker: two tries

Referee: P. Davies (Pembrokeshire)

Gloucester continue fight for safety in phoney war

Gloucester 18
Bristol 14

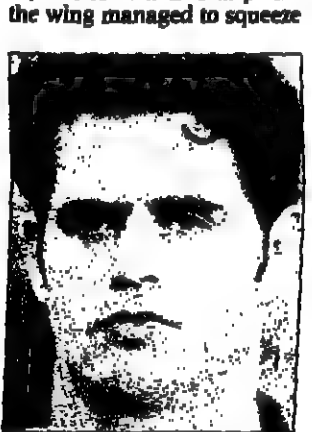
By Nicholas Andrews

A RUGBY Football Union (RFU) press conference tomorrow may shed some light on the make-up of the Courage Clubs Championship first division next season, but do not count on it. More likely is that the RFU will declare its intention to preside over a ten-team top flight. The leading clubs, who prefer 12, will object, flex their collective muscle and the present farcical uncertainty will continue awhile yet. Gloucester will then entertain Bath on Wednesday night still not knowing whether they are fighting for their first-division lives.

Playing Bath is not much fun at the moment, as Harlequins, Gloucester's hosts this Saturday, will now attest. Nor does Richard Hill, the director of coaching at Kingsholm, enjoy playing the team that has just met the league leaders and champions-elect. The fixture list has decreed that that should be the lot of Gloucester this season — to meet Bath's most recent victims in their following game.

So Bristol on Saturday, like Wasps the week before them, took on Hill's team doubly determined to get the previous drubbing out of their system. "When Bath have thumped someone, we have to play them the week after," Hill said. "It has not been easy following them."

In Hill's words, therefore, Bristol "were up for it" and, indeed, they scored the game's only try after 13 minutes, when Fenwick caught and unwisely tried to unload a high ball outside his 22. Bristol retrieved possession and Bracken speedily found Massey, who passed to Thomas, who fed Gavin Sharp and the wing managed to squeeze



Bracken: created try

over in the corner despite a tackle from Peters. Bristol and Gloucester have been playing each other since 1892. The programme said this was one of the highlights of the season, that these games are always special. Sky Television's programme planners presumably hoped so too. They were wrong.

"The aim of today was to win," Hill said. "If we had lost today, that would have been it, but I have to say I didn't think the game would be that poor."

Brian Hanlon, the Bristol coach for a few more weeks, blamed indiscipline and forced errors for the sorry spectacle. "Gloucester kicked their goals and that is what they won by," he said. "I didn't think they looked like scoring a try."

Mark Mapletto suffered badly in the Pilkington Cup semi-final defeat by Bath on his return from injury last month. He came off the bench to replace Fenwick on Saturday with 30 minutes left after the Gloucester full back had damaged his ankle, and Mapletto it was who kicked two testing penalties in the last ten minutes to take Gloucester from 14-12 down to an 18-14 victory. "It's good to see he has got his nerve back," Hill said.

So the fight to avoid relegation, if it is more than a phoney war, goes on. Bristol and Saracens are now just two points ahead of Gloucester and the match between Gloucester and Saracens at Kingsholm in three weeks' time looks increasingly like a decider. Or not.

"It would be nice to know one way or the other," Hill said. Hanlon added: "We have got to assume the worst is going to happen and prepare accordingly, but there is no justification for this uncertainty at all."

SCORES: Gloucester: Dropped goal: Thomas (1).
GLoucester: G. Fenwick, M. Peters, P. Cummins, M. Roberts, P. Holt, M. Kibbey, S. Barton, A. Wingo, P. Greening, A. Deacon, R. Pichot, R. Pinner, D. Sone, A. Stepley, C. Raymond, Fenwick replaced by M. Mapletto (30min).
Fenwick replaced by C. Hearn (30min).
Bristol: P. Hult, P. Briscoe, S. Martin, K. Moggs, G. Sharp, A. Thomas, N. Bracken, A. Sheen, A. Lathrope, D. Perkins, C. Barrow, M. Founier, A. Cobby, J. Ebdell, J. Pearson.
Referee: S. Pacey (Yorkshire)

Northampton set high standards

Northampton 26
Newcastle 5

By Alison Keving

THERE were more internationalists fighting for victory in this Courage Clubs Championship second division match than there were in any other games but one on Saturday. Only the first division top-of-the-table match between Bath and Harlequins could offer more than the 13 internationalists on duty at Franklin's Gardens.

The strong cast was a bonus for the 7,500 spectators who revelled in some outstanding rugby, but the match itself had no bearing on the fate of either of the two sides. Northampton's season of annihilating every other team had already secured them the divisional championship and Newcastle had managed to push themselves off the floor of the table, even though this year, thanks to league restructuring, there is no relegation. Northampton are definitely going up; Newcastle are definitely not going down.

Nevertheless, the match was important because of its implications. Newcastle are the new boys on the block: new money, new players, new optimism and, on Saturday, after having the team together for just a couple of weeks, the chance to prove themselves against the best team that the second division can offer.

Northampton, meanwhile, are all set to reclaim their rightful place in the top flight after a relatively easy year. Facing a Newcastle side boasting almost as many internationalists as they did was a test of their prowess.

Many in the Midlands still feel strongly that Northampton should never have been

relegated during World Cup year, when players had international commitments. They feel there should have been no relegation for any first division team last year, because it tore players between club and country commitments. As such, there has been much pride in Northampton's performances this season.

They went into the lead first on Saturday and never relinquished the advantage. The first points came from Harvey Thornycroft, who took a pass from Greg Townsend, the Scotland international, to go through the middle for a try under the posts. Paul Grayson's conversion, and subsequent dropped goal, gave them a 10-0 lead at half-time.

Tony Underwood put Newcastle on the scoresheet with an unconverted try, before Grayson took the home side further ahead with two penalties and a dropped goal. Northampton finished their points haul with a converted try from Matt Allen.

Newcastle were missing Rob Andrew, who was recovering from a dislocated shoulder. His replacement, Richard Cramb, had a bad day, struggling with penalties, conversions and touch-kicks. Newcastle are continuing their improvement and are rumoured to be bidding for Garath Archer, the Bristol lock, among others, so the team will continue to develop in time for next season.

SCORES: Northampton: Tries: Thornycroft, Allen, Conversions: Grayson (2), Dropped goal: Grayson (1), Penalty goal: Grayson (2), Newcastle: Try: Underwood.
NORTHAMPTON: I. Hunter, N. Best, G. Townsend, M. Allen, H. Thornycroft, P. Grayson, M. Deacon, M. Volland, A. Clarke, M. Hynes, T. Reddy, J. Pinner, G. Pinner, M. Bigfield, G. Sneyd, T. Boddock, temporary replacement for M. Volland (47-52min).
NEWCASTLE: P. Grayson, T. Underwood, R. Wilson, G. Cramb, M. Wilson, R. Cramb, G. Arnold, D. Mack, D. Ryan.
Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool)

Neath move into stride for run-in to title

NEATH, the Heineken League leaders, took another stride towards the championship with a 50-24 rout of relegation-threatened Aberystwyth on Saturday. They boosted their points tally in the past three games to 210, coming from behind to thrash opponents who are second from the bottom and claim a maximum five points thanks to their eighty-try spree.

The home side battled into a 14-7 half-time lead, but were swamped as Neath got into their stride, Chris Scott and Justin Burnell leading the way with two tries each. Aberystwyth snatched a bonus point with four tries, but are looking certain for relegation with Aberavon. Their closest rivals for relegation — Treorchy — secured a stunning 36-30 victory at Newport after trailing 25-5 into the second half.

Pontypridd leapfrogged Llanelli into second place with a 54-22 win over Swansea, with Wales stand-off half, Neil Jenkins, topping 200 points for the season.

Jonah Lomu, the New Zealand line, scored two tries in typically rumbustious style to help Auckland Blues overcome Northern Transvaal 30-26 in a top-of-the-table Super 12 match yesterday. Auckland are four points ahead of Queensland in the table.

England's schoolboys maintained their unbeaten record in the home international series by defeating France 14-11 in Vannes on Saturday. Should they win their final game against Ireland at Hull Ionians on Wednesday, they are likely to share the season's honours with Wales, who held them to a 7-7 draw last month.

Rugby's Easter parade deserves dignified end

To walk to Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday was to do so with a deepening sense of impending loss.

The Barbarians' presence over Easter in Wales is likely to come to an end and this 49-43 defeat against Cardiff could be the last match of its kind. The bright light their particular brand of rugby cast on an admiring public has been growing dimmer. The public still holds them in warm affection, but seemingly the Welsh clubs no longer do.

The Easter tour that began in 1901 was shortened when the first of their traditional fixtures, Penarth, disappeared from the list. Newport was the second to go, only for the match to be rearranged for the autumn. The Welsh clubs were feeling the strain of fielding strong-enough teams. Two seasons ago, Swansea went — and now Cardiff, a fixture that dates back to 1891, is in serious jeopardy.

Having secured players from France, Italy and Argentina to make for a colourful squad, the Barbarians woke up on Saturday morning to find that their hosts were, apart from three players, fielding a second-string side. Cardiff have a Heineken League fixture today against Aberavon, a commitment that is unlikely to change. This, the Barbarians committee felt, was hardly a compliment.

Cardiff may reply by saying that the Barbarians can hardly beat and that the scoreboard tells its own story. What would the margin have been, they would argue, had Cardiff's best taken the field? To which the answer might be, as Geoffrey Windsor-Lewis, the Barbarians secretary, said, that a team responds accordingly to the quality of the opposition, to lift the level of the game in a way they might

Gerald Davies on the sad decline of a once-great seasonal fixture

not when confronted with a lesser team.

There was a goodish crowd, but there were others who might have looked on to see that, since their own club had diminished the value of the match, it was not worth their bother either.

This is a slippery route. Swansea had been down this path and, with the Barbarians themselves searching around for players, turned the fixture into one of total insignificance. Rather than see this Easter Saturday match dwindle and find their own reputation decline, far better for the Barbarians to terminate the fixture. For the sake of their own sense of place in the rugby world and the affection in which they are held, it is better they make a dignified withdrawal.

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Walker: two tries

Referee: P. Davies (Pembrokeshire)

Chance for St Helens to build on fine start

By Christopher Irvine

UNDER Shaun McRae, St Helens have achieved in three months what had been beyond them for years, first reaching the rugby league Challenge Cup final, on April 27, and then breaking a long sequence of defeats by Wigan last Friday.

A habit St Helens have of gaining a fine win, then making a fine mess of things in their next match, is one that their Australian coach is anxious to see end today in the noon encounter at Leeds.

It is possible that St Helens could have an early outright lead in the Super League by tonight. Only two other sides are unbeaten, but Warrington face the inevitable Wigan backlash at Central Park and London Broncos will travel with some trepidation to Bradford Bulls, the other Wembley finalists.

The team is largely the one

Super League fixtures 31

he inherited from his predecessor, but where the unfortunate Eric Hughes got it wrong, McRae, so far, has got things quickly right, getting St Helens back to Wembley after five years and beating Wigan for the first time since the 1993 Premiership final.

McRae is blessed with some excellent talent at Knowsley Road. However, orchestration is required to get good soloists to make music together and McRae's direction has brought far greater harmony in areas of defence where St Helens were vulnerable. In six matches, he has yet to lose.

The one player McRae has brought in, Derek McVey, a second-row forward from Sydney Tigers, had an enormous bearing on the 41-26 defeat of Wigan. A repeat of his rampaging running and off-loading of the ball under pressure can only do further damage to a Leeds side showing obvious strains.

Leeds and Workington Town are the only sides to have lost their two opening games. Castleford Tigers denied Leeds with a last-minute try on Friday and there had been booing at Headingley

during the opening defeat by Warrington. A third would bring added pressures for Dean Bell, the Leeds coach.

A back scan on Martin Offiah revealed a cracked vertebra, which will keep the Wigan wing out for at least a fortnight. Rob Smyth takes his place for the visit of Warrington and their coach, John Dorahy, whose troubled season at Wigan ended in dismissal four days after the side won the 1994 Challenge Cup.

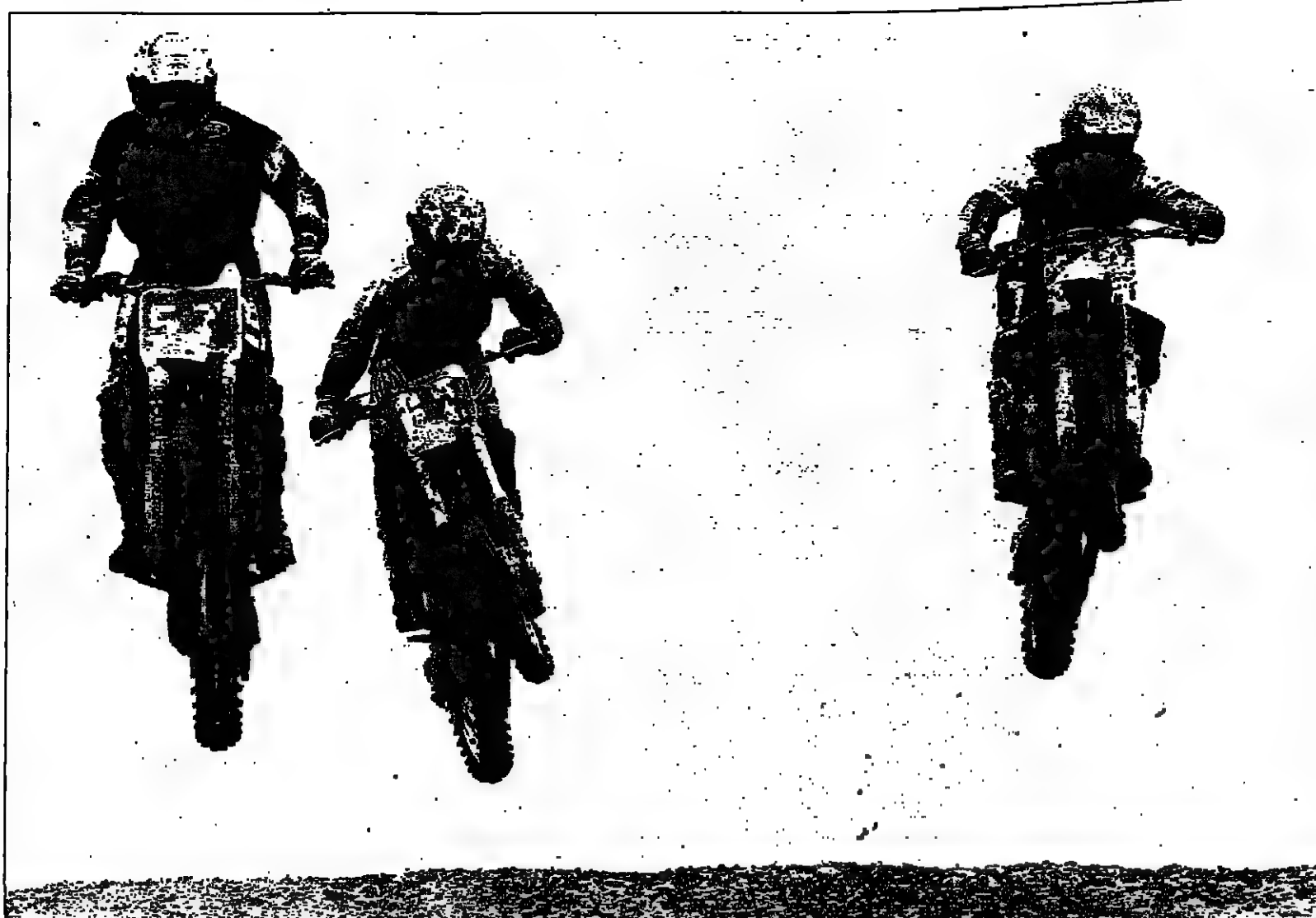
Dorahy is one half of a "dream team" at Warrington with Alex Murphy, the team manager, who also knows what it is like to be dismissed by Wigan. Tonight brings an early opportunity to fulfil Murphy's words when they were appointed in January: "I promise you one thing," he said then, "John Dorahy will come back to haunt Wigan."

Iestyn Harris, Paul Sculthorpe and Lee Penry are youngsters with a tremendous future. What Warrington lack are experienced craftsmen to blend in with youthful potential. In their last four meetings, Wigan have won with plenty to spare and, after their problems of the last week, Wigan will want to produce a convincing performance.

Tony Currie, the London coach, was highly critical of his side, in spite of the win against Paris Saint-Germain on Thursday. A more pragmatic approach will be required to gain a first win at Bradford, which would represent a start to the Broncos' season beyond all expectations.

Paris attracted nearly 18,000 to the Charley Stadium for the opening-day defeat of Sheffield Eagles, which brought a media awakening in France. Oldham Bears are the visitors today and the emphasis will be on the home team to keep up the good work in the name of rugby league by achieving a second win.

Workington sank without trace at home to St Helens eight days ago, gave a far better account of themselves before losing 45-30 at Warrington and now need to repeat their win of last season against Sheffield at Derwent Park.



High-flying Lee Jones, left, leads Matthew Dent and Mark Woodbridge over the humps and bumps in a thrilling heat at the Mid-Hants moto-cross championships at Thruxton yesterday, where many of the leading riders in the United Kingdom were competing. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Clifton court success against the odds

By Stuart Jones

IN A different context, the black, pock-marked walls might have been used to illustrate a day's shelling in a war zone. Apart from the presence of numerous scuff marks, as though hails of bullets had ricocheted off the surface, three gaping holes suggested heavier artillery had been at work.

Clifton College's rackets court, one of only 37 in the world, is plainly in need of refurbishment. The damage has been inflicted during more than a century of activity in an arena that is said to be used more often than any other except at Queen's, the headquarters of the sport.

Converted into a basketball court by the Americans during the war (the doorway was filled in and another was hacked out of the side wall), it is to be repaired during the summer at a cost of £4,000. Clifton are also in the process of re-establishing their prowess in rackets.

None of their individuals

has claimed the Foster Cup, the national schools championship, since 1990. The winner then was Matthew Windows, now a county cricketer with Gloucestershire. One of his former rivals, Toby Sawrey-Cookson, has since changed allegiances.

A semi-finalist in the Foster Cup, he was a contemporary of Windows at Wellington and is the professional in charge of guiding Clifton's resurgence.

"The standard among the seniors is weak at the moment," he conceded, "but there are some promising juniors coming through."

In view of the current comparatively low status, he was initially bemused by the visit of an outsider. Sawrey-Cookson, 23, was too bashful to disclose that he is the British under-24 doubles champion, a title he won with Jonathan Larkin in January, and is rated unofficially in singles as the ninth-best player.

The competitive field is restricted. He competes in no more than half-a-dozen tournaments a year and the re-



Schools results 31

wards are equally limited. He estimates that the overall prize-money he has earned in three years as a professional amounts to a mere £1,300.

He pointed out that the winner of the British Open, one of the three titles that have to be won by anyone with pretensions to challenging the world champion, receives some £800. It is not as if the equipment is cheap either. Even a moderate racket can cost as much as £40.

The teenage experience of

the chairman of the Boosters, the club which uses the court at Clifton during the evenings, exemplifies the potential expense. In one term at Harrow, Claude Rome broke 37 rackets and ran up a bill that exceeded the school fees.

Eton, represented by all four semi-finalists in the last Foster Cup, remain the dominant force. With two courts and 1,100 pupils, they have a distinct numerical advantage. Girls, none of whom play rackets, form almost half of Clifton's 680 students.

More popular pastimes are rugby (Kevin Bowring was the director of sport until he left to take up his post as the Wales coach) and cricket. A plaque commemorates the world record achieved by "A. E. J. Collins who scored 629 runs on this ground" in a junior house match in 1899.

Nevertheless, Sawrey-Cookson believes that Clifton could in a couple of years challenge the likes of Eton, Harrow and Tonbridge. He is depending on the continuing development of three young-

sters — Nathan Thevathasan, George Buck and Daniel Kane. Thevathasan had never played the game before he arrived from Sri Lanka. Nor had Buck, whose father was a headmaster in Kenya. By the time they are seniors, their tutor expects to be reaching his own peak. He lost in the first round of the British Open last month, but to the eventual champion, James Male, who is also world champion.

Sawrey-Cookson, who admits that his 6ft 2in frame may be larger than the ideal for rackets, competed last week with Larkin in the British Open doubles championship at Queen's. His regular partner will also assist him to prepare for his debut in the US Open later this month.

They will practise in the crumbling court, receiving the customary less whenever the ball veers off the edges of the holes. Clifton's students will shortly be seeking perfection there as well, and not only in their physical activities. The room also houses the GCSE examinations.

Ranatunga ready to hand over captaincy to de Silva

By Our Sports Staff

SRI Lanka's cricket captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, 32, who led his side to victory over Australia in the World Cup final last month, is to step down. In a newspaper interview yesterday, Ranatunga said it was time he handed over the reins.

"I think I've done my bit, having been captain since 1989," Ranatunga said. The left-handed batsman, who first represented his country as an 18-year-old schoolboy, nominated his vice-captain, Aravinda de Silva, as his successor. "With his experience and capabilities, he will handle the team very well," Ranatunga said.

His announcement came on the day that Sri Lanka lost to Pakistan by 43 runs in the final of the Singer Cup in Singapore, but not before their swashbuckling opening batsman, Sanath Jayasuriya, had established another one-day batting record. He struck a half-century from only 17 balls — one less than the previous record held by the Simon O'Donnell, of Australia, — as Sri Lanka chased a victory target of 216.

There were five sixes and eight fours in Jayasuriya's innings of 76 from 28 deliveries, but, when he was out, Sri Lanka collapsed on a pitch that gave the off spinner, Saqlain, all the help he needed to turn the game.

In Kingstown, St Vincent, Brian Lara and Phil Simmons scored centuries as West Indies beat New Zealand by seven wickets in the deciding one-day international to take the series by three matches to two. Lara struck 104 and Simmons 103 not out, adding 186 in a third-wicket partnership that began with West Indies struggling at 31 for two in reply to New Zealand's 241 for eight.

It was Lara's ninth one-day century, and his second of the series. He hit a six and ten fours from the 103 balls he received.

West Indies needed 25 runs off the remaining nine overs after Lara's dismissal and Simmons saw them home. His fifth one-day hundred included two sixes and ten fours off 125 balls. He finished the match by pulling Cairns to the fine-line boundary off the third delivery of the penultimate over.

Scoreboards, page 31

Woking maintain winning habit to stay in hunt for title

Woking 3

Macclesfield Town 2

By Walter Gammie

WHEN confirmation of Stevenage Borough's defeat at Morecambe reached the home dressing-room at Kingfield on Saturday, added edge was given to the euphoria generated by a thrilling Woking victory. Now just a point behind the leaders, having played a match more, Woking travel to Stevenage today with the Vauxhall Conference title tantalisingly within reach.

Six successive wins make a persuasive case for their chances. The spirit with which, 2-1 behind at half-time and down to ten men with Hunter, their scorer, sent off, they rallied to seize the spoils an even more forceful one.

Four minutes into the second half, Woking withdrew Baron from their five-man defence and sent on Adams, a forward. It was a statement of intent to which the players responded magnificently. Their attacking balance restored with a flat back four, Woking flowed forward, re-kindled their passing game and played a previously rampant Macclesfield off the pitch.

Adams did his bit with two

deceptive left-foot strikes. In the 55th minute, he timed his stretch at the far post to steer in a cross by Steele, then, in the 64th minute, he pulled away from the defence as Walker weaved to the byline and turned away a perfect pass with aplomb.

Walker, the former Chelsea and Sunderland wing, might, at 38, have seen it all before,

Poole Town survived the ignominy of entering the Guinness Book of Records as the worst team in football history when they drew 0-0 with Bashley in the Beazer Homes League on Saturday. Poole had previously suffered 39 successive defeats, equalling the record set by Stockport United in 1977.

but he was clearly pleased with his piece of sorcery. "When the adrenalin starts flowing, everyone wants to take on extra responsibility — and no one missed out in that respect," he said. "I felt I just wanted to try something extra. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't." Most of 4,383 crowd, the best of the season in the Conference, roared their approval.

For Sammy McLroy, the

Macclesfield manager, Hunter's sending off had proved a predictable turning point. "You see it so often," he said. "In the second half, we simply didn't match them for commitment."

His dismay was understandable. Macclesfield, having fallen behind, played smooth, controlled football and twice pulled apart Woking's defence for Sorvel and then Coates to deliver crosses for Power to score.

They were ahead and looking comfortable when Hunter was ordered off in the 32nd minute. Having made his mark with a fine goal, hooking the ball over his shoulder and driving the ball across Price in Macclesfield's goal, Hunter needlessly tripped Hemmings to add a second yellow card to one he had picked up for a foul in the second minute.

At the finish, the match sponsor declined to pick out a man of the match, nominating the entire Woking team. "I've never seen that before," Walker said, "but who would want to argue?"

WOKING (4-3-1-2): L. Batty — J. Crumple, M. Tucker, K. Brown, T. Barron (sub. D. Adams, 49min), S. Grotter (sub. D. Timothy, 20), C. Fielder, A. Ellis — S. Steele — J. Hunter, C. Walker.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-3): R. Price — D. Trison, W. Howarth, S. Payne, M. Gardner — S. Wood (sub. D. Lyons, 84), N. Sorvel, K. Hulme, A. Hemmings — M. Coates, P. Power. Referee: R. Styles.

Bright start brings reward for Oxford

Oxford University 2

Cambridge University 1

By David Miller

THE attendance for the University football match at Craven Cottage — 1,260 — was more than half that for Cambridge United's home match in the Endleigh Insurance League third division. Not bad at all (writes David Miller). However, it is eight years since Cambridge University's last victory and Oxford's fourth win in this spell was the reward of dominance in the first hour.

It was difficult to detect any serious coaching influence on either team, unless it was the respective tactical formations: Oxford's 4-5-1, Cambridge's 1-1-5-2, both of them surprisingly negative for an encounter that is neither league nor Cup, but a one-off and supposedly an occasion for some style.

Oxford's lone attacker, Perera, failed to achieve his professed impersonation of Faustino Asprilla and it was the mobility and control of Smith, Bissell, Loosemore and the two Hanssens in midfield that gave Oxford the edge.

Cambridge played with a sweeper, White, behind a

marker, Budd, behind a mid-field sweeper, Thompson, the captain. Thompson's inaccurate distribution did not make the most of lively performances in front of him by Pett and Evans in midfield and Millar up front.

Loosemore headed Oxford in front after a quarter of an hour from a corner by Jens-Peter Hanssen, who had earlier hit the angle of the posts. After Pett and Hayward had missed scrambled chances for Cambridge, Oxford pressed for the remainder of the first half and went two up soon after the hour when Smith rounded Park and shot home from an acute angle. Millar scored ten minutes from the end from a penalty for a handling offence and thereafter Cambridge wasted openings for a draw with ragged shooting.

Only half a dozen players showed natural ability and Evans, who has professional experience with Luton, was named man of the match. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: J. Park (25), S. Budd (30), R. Thompson (45), M. Budd (45), A. Thompson (55), J. White (60), J. White (65), J. White (70), J. White (75), J. White (80), J. White (85), J. White (90). OXFORD UNIVERSITY: J. Perera (10), J. Smith (15), J. Bissell (20), J. Loosemore (25), J. Hanssen (30), J. Hanssen (35), J. Hanssen (40), J. Hanssen (45), J. Hanssen (50), J. Hanssen (55), J. Hanssen (60), J. Hanssen (65), J. Hanssen (70), J. Hanssen (75), J. Hanssen (80), J. Hanssen (85), J. Hanssen (90).

Lowly Royals stay defiant

By Nicholas Harling

THE near-capacity crowds that have watched the Hemel Hempstead Royals basketball team all season — most recently on Saturday for the visit of the deposed champions, Sheffield Sharks — provide a powerful argument as to why the Budweiser League's bottom club should not be relegated. Less persuasive is the team itself, whose meagre tally of six wins in 36 games means that the club will have to sweat over the next month on its status next season.

Hemel have finished bottom twice in the past four seasons, yet the club's owner, Vince MacCauley-Razaq, is adamant: "I would like to feel that we have made some progress

since we took the club over," he said after the Royals had slumped to a 93-77 defeat by the Sharks. "I am 100 per cent confident of being in the league next season."

Like most owners, Razaq welcomes the new ruling that will permit clubs to field five foreign players from next season. "It's the best thing that could ever have happened to this league," he said. "We want to encourage English players as much as we can, but they shouldn't be in a comfort zone of being guaranteed places just because they are English."

Just to endorse his point, two Americans had earlier led the scoring, Jason Simon

collected 23 points for the Royals, who trailed throughout chiefly because the Sharks had, in his compatriot, Todd Cauthorn, the scorer of 25 points, the game's outstanding performer. Roger Huggins kept the English flag flying with his contribution of 24 points for the Sharks. That was two less than Peter Scantlebury — who he recently succeeded as England captain — accumulated for Thames Valley Tigers in their 108-86 home loss to the champions, London Towers.

Mark Robinson's 40 for Manchester Giants in their 109-97 win over Chester Jets was the best individual tally of the weekend.

Furlan clinches Italian victory

RENZO FURLAN'S victory over Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, in Rome yesterday gave Italy a place in the Davis Cup semi-finals for the first time in 16 years. Cheered on by 6,000 supporters in the Foro Italo, Furlan won 3-6, 6-0, 7-6, 6-2 in 2hr 42min to establish a winning 3-1 margin.

"We have won a great match," Adriano Panatta, the Italians' captain, said before he was hoisted on to the

shoulders of jubilant team members. "Now let's move on to the semi-finals against France. It's a very open competition." France, who had already qualified at Germany's expense when Guy Forget and Arnaud Boetsch beat Boris Becker and Marc Goellner in Saturday's doubles, completed a 5-0 whitewash in Limoges when Forget and Cedric Pioline scored singles victories over David Prinosil and

Hendrick Dreckman. They are in the semi-finals for the first time since 1991. The Germans were without Michael Stich while Becker played only in the doubles because of a respiratory infection.

Sweden completed a 5-0 rout of India on grass in Calcutta and will now meet the Czech Republic, who gained a 3-2 win over the United States in Prague when Petr Korda beat MaliVai Washington 7-6, 6-3, 6-2.

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OWTO POINT

Tickets from £7.50.
So much for hitting
the Scottish where it hurts most.

First game April 14th
London Monarchs v Scottish Claymores

AMERICAN FOOTBALL. ENGLISH TURF.
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What could the Scottish possibly hate more than losing money? Losing their first game of the season to the English. Venue: White Hart Lane, Tottenham • Home games: April 14, May 6, May 19, May 27, June 16 • Pre-game Power Party at 12.00pm • Kick-off at 3.00pm • Courtesy shuttle bus with return service from Seven Sisters tube • Half-price admission for children 12 and under • Season tickets: 5 for the price of 4 • Ticket orders are subject to agency booking fees.



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Regiment's march earns Webster another stripe

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A CAPTAIN of British industry emerged yesterday as one of the luckiest racehorse owners in the land after Regiment marched into 2,000 Guineas reckoning by winning the Easter Stakes at Kempton on Saturday.

David Webster, deputy chairman of the Argyl group, which includes the Safeway supermarket chain, only became interested in racing four years ago when he met Harry Herbert, who manages Highclere Thoroughbred Racing, and bought a share in one of his syndicates.

A stroke of good fortune saw Webster become part-owner of Lake Coniston, the outstanding July Cup winner, and the useful Numbered Account—and his total investment of £9,000 ended in dividends of around £80,000.

Now lightning appears to have struck in the same place twice as Webster has bought a share in a syndicate which owns Regiment, trained by Richard Hannon, who quickly decided to give the final

furloing to land the classic trial and a first prize of £12,000.

"David Webster originally became involved because my then wife-to-be, Chica, was a professional caterer who organised directors' lunches. He always used to pop his head round the door afterwards to say thank you and Chica asked one day if he was interested in racing. He

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: NOBLE SPRINTER (3.40 Kempton Park)
Next best: High Priority (3.10 Kempton Park)

wasn't, but agreed to see me and Lake Coniston became his first involvement in racing," Herbert explained yesterday.

Webster added: "I am still very much a novice, but it's been a tremendous fun and I have introduced a very good friend to one of his syndicates. Luck obviously plays an enor-

mous part but I have friends who look on with real envy at what I have achieved."

Wayne Basler from Texas, Michael Brower who started the Garfunkels restaurant chain, and Lord Hambleden are three other members of the 30-strong Regiment syndicate who also owned part of Lake Coniston.

Apart from highlighting the success of Herbert's operation, Regiment's victory is also testimony to the shrewd buying skills of John Warren, who bought Lake Coniston for \$22,000 in 1992 and spent just £12,000 on Regiment at Goffs sales.

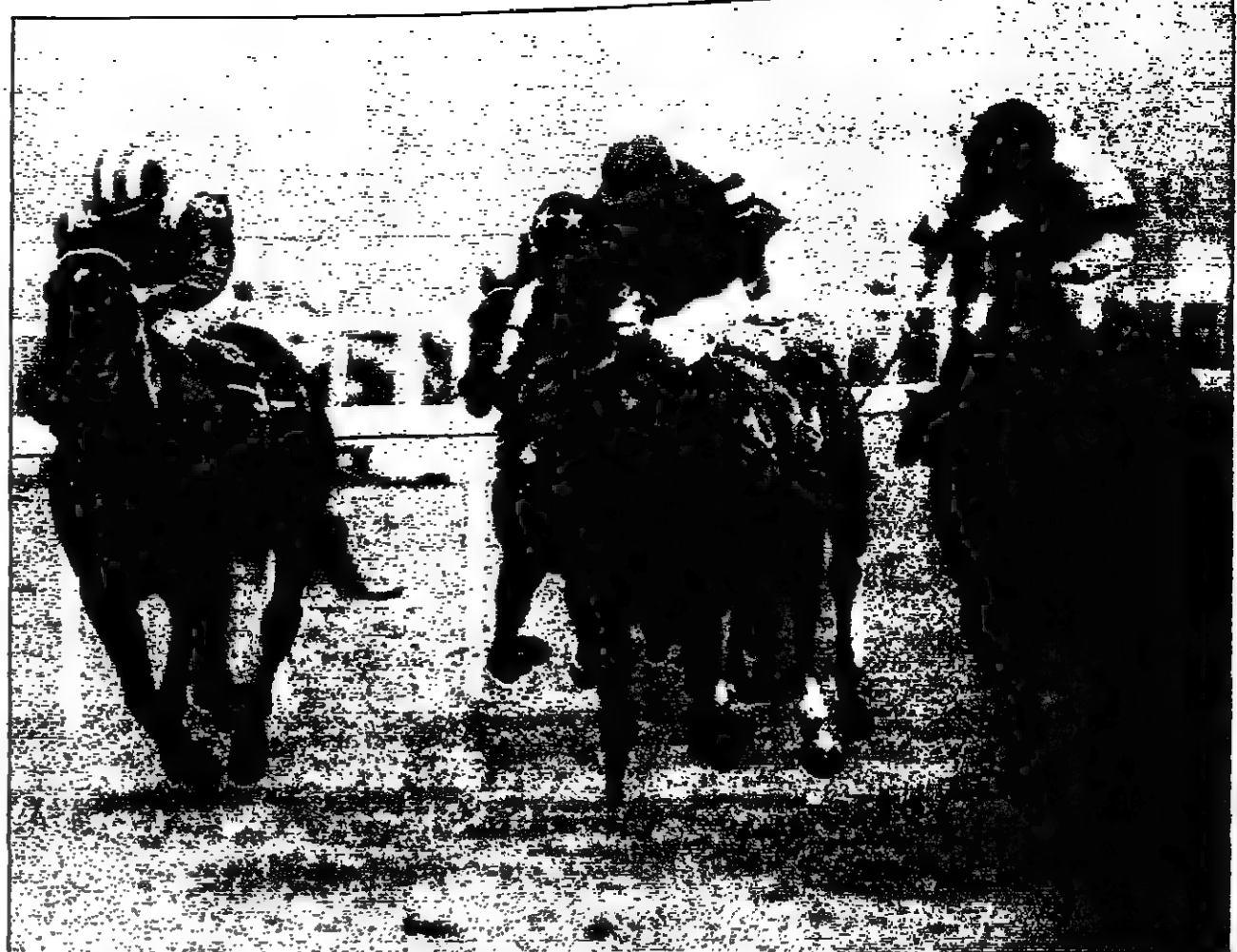
Hannon has now won the Easter Stakes four times in five years and he rates the son of Shaadi as good as Lucky Lindy, who went on from Kempton in 1992 to finish runner-up to Rodrigo De Triano in the 2,000 Guineas.

The trainer said: "He's got a turn of foot and we were worried about him staying because he has showed so much speed at home. In fact,

he's been working with our sprinters and we had to come here to find out if he gets a mile. He's more of a speed horse than Lucky Lindy but he looks a proper Guineas horse now that he gets the trip."

A 100-1 shot on Saturday morning for the first colts' classic, he was trimmed to 33-1 by Coral and William Hill after his length success over Centre Stalls, with Elshabiba the same distance away in third. The ten runners dawdled early on and the final time was slower than that clocked by the fillies in the Masaka Stakes, which suited Regiment admirably.

Another captain of industry, Lord Weststock of GEC, had every reason to be pleased after Sea Spray came out top in a blanket finish to the Masaka Stakes, although it is unlikely the Peter Chapple-Hyam-trained daughter of Royal Academy will take on Bosra Sham and Blue Duster at Newmarket. The Irish 1,000 Guineas is a more likely option.



Regiment, right, storms through in the final furlong to take the Easter Stakes at Kempton on Saturday

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDER

- 1.40 Private Song
2.10 Atlantic Storm
2.40 Potomac Prince
3.10 Hard to Figure

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.45 STOPPES BROW.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 ATLANTIC STORM (nap).
4.15 Lucky DI.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

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245 (154) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
246 (155) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
247 (156) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
248 (157) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
249 (158) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
250 (159) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
251 (160) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
252 (161) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
253 (162) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
254 (163) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
255 (164) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
256 (165) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
257 (166) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
258 (167) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
259 (168) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
260 (169) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
261 (170) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
262 (171) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
263 (172) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
264 (173) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
265 (174) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
266 (175) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
267 (176) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
268 (177) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
269 (178) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
270 (179) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
271 (180) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
272 (181) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
273 (182) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
274 (183) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
275 (184) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
276 (185) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
277 (186) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
278 (187) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
279 (188) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
280 (189) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
281 (190) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
282 (191) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
283 (192) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
284 (193) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
285 (194) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
286 (195) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
287 (196) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
288 (197) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
289 (198) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
290 (199) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
291 (200) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
292 (201) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
293 (202) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
294 (203) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
295 (204) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
296 (205) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
297 (206) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
298 (207) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (10) B.F. (10) (10) B West (4) 10
299 (208) 0-0432: 6000 TIMES 74 (1

Dunwoody to make late call-up count

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

WITH the British raiding party weakened by the absence of Sun Bay and Tartan Tyrant — because of the last ground — the way looks clear for Lord Singapore to capture the Jameson Irish National at Fairhouse today.

Fergie Sutherland, who relies on Go Co. Gallant today, sent Imperial Call from Cork to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the same county can complete a remarkable double with the Jonjo Walsh-trained chaser.

This progressive performer brings solid credentials with him for the £62,700 first prize, having won on all three of his previous visits to the course. He will also have the invaluable assistance of Richard Dunwoody in the saddle.

Dunwoody was a late booking for the ride after Lord Singapore's intended partner, Jason Tiley, suffered rib injuries in the Grand National at Aintree and Walsh is unconcerned about any overweight the champion jockey may carry.

Walsh said: "Richard says he will do 10st 3lb, so we'll be carrying 3lb extra, but Richard's worth twice as much. This will be the first time the horse has carried a light weight in a big race. Because he is not very big, it should be an advantage."

Walsh added: "He seems to like Fairhouse too, having won his maiden hurdle, a good handicap hurdle and a novice chase there."

Lord Singapore warmed up for today's race with an impressive five-length defeat of Bob Devani in a chase over two miles, five furlongs at Leopardstown last month, a commendable effort as he is essentially a stayer.



Dunwoody: Late booking

GOING: GOOD

CHANNEL 4/BS

3.55 JAMESON IRISH NATIONAL CHASE (Handicap; £62,700; 3m 5f) (22 runners)

1-10P FLASHING STEEL (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
3-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
4-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
5-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
6-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
7-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
8-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
9-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
10-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
11-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
12-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
13-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
14-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
15-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
16-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
17-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
18-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
19-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
20-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
21-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12
22-10P JORDAN (4) (J) P. B. Brennan 11-11-12

Kempton Park

GOING: GOOD

2.15 (1m 2f) 1. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2.15 (1m 2f) 2. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
3.15 (1m 2f) 3. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
4.15 (1m 2f) 4. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
5.15 (1m 2f) 5. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
6.15 (1m 2f) 6. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
7.15 (1m 2f) 7. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
8.15 (1m 2f) 8. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
9.15 (1m 2f) 9. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
10.15 (1m 2f) 10. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
11.15 (1m 2f) 11. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
12.15 (1m 2f) 12. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
13.15 (1m 2f) 13. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
14.15 (1m 2f) 14. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
15.15 (1m 2f) 15. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
16.15 (1m 2f) 16. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
17.15 (1m 2f) 17. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
18.15 (1m 2f) 18. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
19.15 (1m 2f) 19. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
20.15 (1m 2f) 20. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
21.15 (1m 2f) 21. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
22.15 (1m 2f) 22. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4

Newton Abbot

GOING: GOOD

2.15 (1m 2f) 1. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2.15 (1m 2f) 2. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
3.15 (1m 2f) 3. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
4.15 (1m 2f) 4. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
5.15 (1m 2f) 5. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
6.15 (1m 2f) 6. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
7.15 (1m 2f) 7. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
8.15 (1m 2f) 8. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
9.15 (1m 2f) 9. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
10.15 (1m 2f) 10. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
11.15 (1m 2f) 11. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
12.15 (1m 2f) 12. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
13.15 (1m 2f) 13. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
14.15 (1m 2f) 14. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
15.15 (1m 2f) 15. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
16.15 (1m 2f) 16. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
17.15 (1m 2f) 17. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
18.15 (1m 2f) 18. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
19.15 (1m 2f) 19. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
20.15 (1m 2f) 20. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
21.15 (1m 2f) 21. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
22.15 (1m 2f) 22. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4

Towcester

GOING: GOOD

2.15 (1m 2f) 1. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2.15 (1m 2f) 2. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
3.15 (1m 2f) 3. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
4.15 (1m 2f) 4. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
5.15 (1m 2f) 5. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
6.15 (1m 2f) 6. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
7.15 (1m 2f) 7. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
8.15 (1m 2f) 8. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
9.15 (1m 2f) 9. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
10.15 (1m 2f) 10. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
11.15 (1m 2f) 11. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
12.15 (1m 2f) 12. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
13.15 (1m 2f) 13. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
14.15 (1m 2f) 14. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
15.15 (1m 2f) 15. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
16.15 (1m 2f) 16. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
17.15 (1m 2f) 17. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
18.15 (1m 2f) 18. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
19.15 (1m 2f) 19. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
20.15 (1m 2f) 20. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
21.15 (1m 2f) 21. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
22.15 (1m 2f) 22. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4

Haydock Park

GOING: GOOD

2.15 (1m 2f) 1. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2.15 (1m 2f) 2. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
3.15 (1m 2f) 3. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
4.15 (1m 2f) 4. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
5.15 (1m 2f) 5. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
6.15 (1m 2f) 6. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
7.15 (1m 2f) 7. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
8.15 (1m 2f) 8. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
9.15 (1m 2f) 9. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
10.15 (1m 2f) 10. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
11.15 (1m 2f) 11. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
12.15 (1m 2f) 12. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
13.15 (1m 2f) 13. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
14.15 (1m 2f) 14. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
15.15 (1m 2f) 15. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
16.15 (1m 2f) 16. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
17.15 (1m 2f) 17. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
18.15 (1m 2f) 18. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
19.15 (1m 2f) 19. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
20.15 (1m 2f) 20. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
21.15 (1m 2f) 21. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
22.15 (1m 2f) 22. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4

Carlisle

GOING: GOOD

2.15 (1m 2f) 1. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2.15 (1m 2f) 2. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
3.15 (1m 2f) 3. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
4.15 (1m 2f) 4. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
5.15 (1m 2f) 5. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
6.15 (1m 2f) 6. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
7.15 (1m 2f) 7. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
8.15 (1m 2f) 8. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
9.15 (1m 2f) 9. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
10.15 (1m 2f) 10. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
11.15 (1m 2f) 11. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
12.15 (1m 2f) 12. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
13.15 (1m 2f) 13. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
14.15 (1m 2f) 14. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
15.15 (1m 2f) 15. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
16.15 (1m 2f) 16. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
17.15 (1m 2f) 17. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
18.15 (1m 2f) 18. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
19.15 (1m 2f) 19. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
20.15 (1m 2f) 20. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
21.15 (1m 2f) 21. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
22.15 (1m 2f) 22. Prospector's Cove (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4

Valanour lands impressive Longchamp success

VALANOUR, ridden by Ger-ald Moss, returned to his best form with a decisive defeat of Carling and Housman in the group two Prix d'Harcourt over ten furlongs at Longchamp yesterday.

It was the first outing for the 10-year-old, owned by the Aga Khan, since finishing a well-beaten sixth behind Pentire in the Guinness Champion Stakes at Leopardstown last September, but he scored by a length with something in hand. The victory gave his trainer, Alain de Royer-Dupre, his first success of the season.

Gunboat Diplomacy, who started odds-on, could not handle the fast ground and finished last of the six runners.

The firm going also led to the withdrawal of the likely favourite, Le Triton, from the group II Prix Nostalgies (11), which Housman, trained by Elie Lefebvre and partnered by Dominique Boeuf, won by four lengths. The 11-0 winner, who had triumphed by ten lengths in his only previous race, set a course record yesterday and will now go for the Prix Lupin and the Prix du Jockey-Club.

Valanour and Carling are expected to meet again in the Prix Ganay, at Longchamp on April 28, which is also the objective of the leading Italian four-year-old Sticcus.

Sticcus was an impressive 2½ lengths winner of the £20,300 Premio d'Aprile over ten furlongs at San Siro, Milan, yesterday, with the British challenger, Penny Drops, ridden by David Harrison, fading into fourth after making a lot of the running.

Cavonnier emerged as a challenger for the Kentucky Derby with a victory in the \$1 million Santa Anita Derby on Saturday. The Bob Baffert-trained colt came from off the pace to win by 1½ lengths from Alyrb, who was subsequently disqualified for interference, with the favourite, Honour And Glory, another 6½ lengths third.

Cavonnier, ridden by Chris McCarron, was considered the second string in Baffert's stable behind Semoran, who runs in the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland on Saturday. If Semoran lives up to expectations, the yard could be double-handed in the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on May 4.

Although the Santa Anita Derby is the richest of the Derby trials, there are plenty of other routes for prospective runners to take to Kentucky. Unbridled's Song, last year's two-year-old champion, is expected to have little trouble with a weak Wood Memorial field at Aqueduct on Saturday, and that would send him to Churchill Downs as the favourite.

In the Blue Grass on the same day, a host of Derby probabilities, including the D Wayne Lukas-trained Editor's Note, Shug McGaughey's Draw, a pair of Nick Zito-trained colts, Diligence and Louis Quatorze, could tackle Semoran.

McGaughey hopes to get his other prime colt, Roar, to the Derby through the Lexington Stakes at Keeneland on April 21, just two weeks before the main event.



Aga Khan: valuable win

WINCANTON

THUNDERER
2.00 Gysart. 2.30 General Crack. 3.00 Court Joker.
3.30 Blackst Hor. 4.00 Spinning Steel. 4.30 The Bounder.

GOING: GOOD

2.00 PAY AND PLAY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (€3,000; 2m 6f) (10 runners)

1-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
3-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
4-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
5-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
6-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
7-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
8-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
9-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
10-6-8 DREAM HIDE 16.10 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4

2.30 GARDENS NIGHT CLUB NOVICES CHASE (€3,457; 3m 11f 10y) (7 runners)

1-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
3-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
4-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
5-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
6-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
7-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4

3.00 GOLF COURSE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CLAIMING HURDLE (€2,303; 2m) (7 runners)

1-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
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7-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4

3.30 GARDENS NIGHT CLUB NOVICES CHASE (€3,457; 3m 11f 10y) (7 runners)

1-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
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4.00 IMPROVE YOUR HANDICAP CHASE (€3,535; 2m) (4 runners)

1-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
2-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
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4.30 NINE HOLE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (€2,736; 2m) (10 runners)

1-3-11 GENERAL CRACK 26 (5) (C) H. J. Walsh 11-12-4
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It took just one lesson for **Jennai Cox** to perform a single forward somersault

Why one jump on a trampoline will set you bouncing

Trampolining demands grace and power: it takes effort to look sleek when soaring up to 25ft from the trampoline bed. The sheer exhilaration can be addictive. Rebound tumbling, as trampolining was once more commonly known, is a relatively new sport. Its origins lie with the Eskimos — postcards at Anchorage airport, Alaska, depict them tossing each other about on walrus skins. In Britain early this century acrobats performed comedy routines on bouncing beds and, according to circus lore, the trampoline was developed by an artist named Du Trampolin who saw potential in the trapeze safety net.

In the 1930s George Nissen, an American tumbling and diving champion, built one of the earliest trampolines in his garage for training and, soon after, for entertainment. With the help of physical education experts he devised textbooks, lesson plans and training courses. The sport took off.

The rapid spread of trampolining to countries such as Poland, Japan, Switzerland and South Africa can be explained by its enjoyable simplicity. No special skill or physique is required to start and that first bound can be tried at any age. Two or three minutes of jumping is as good as aerobic exercise as the same time spent running and is also a form of plyometrics: according to sports scientists this type of explosive jumping develops the strength required to hold the body in flight and helps to resist the force of landings. Trampolining is also used as supplementary training by divers and gymnasts.

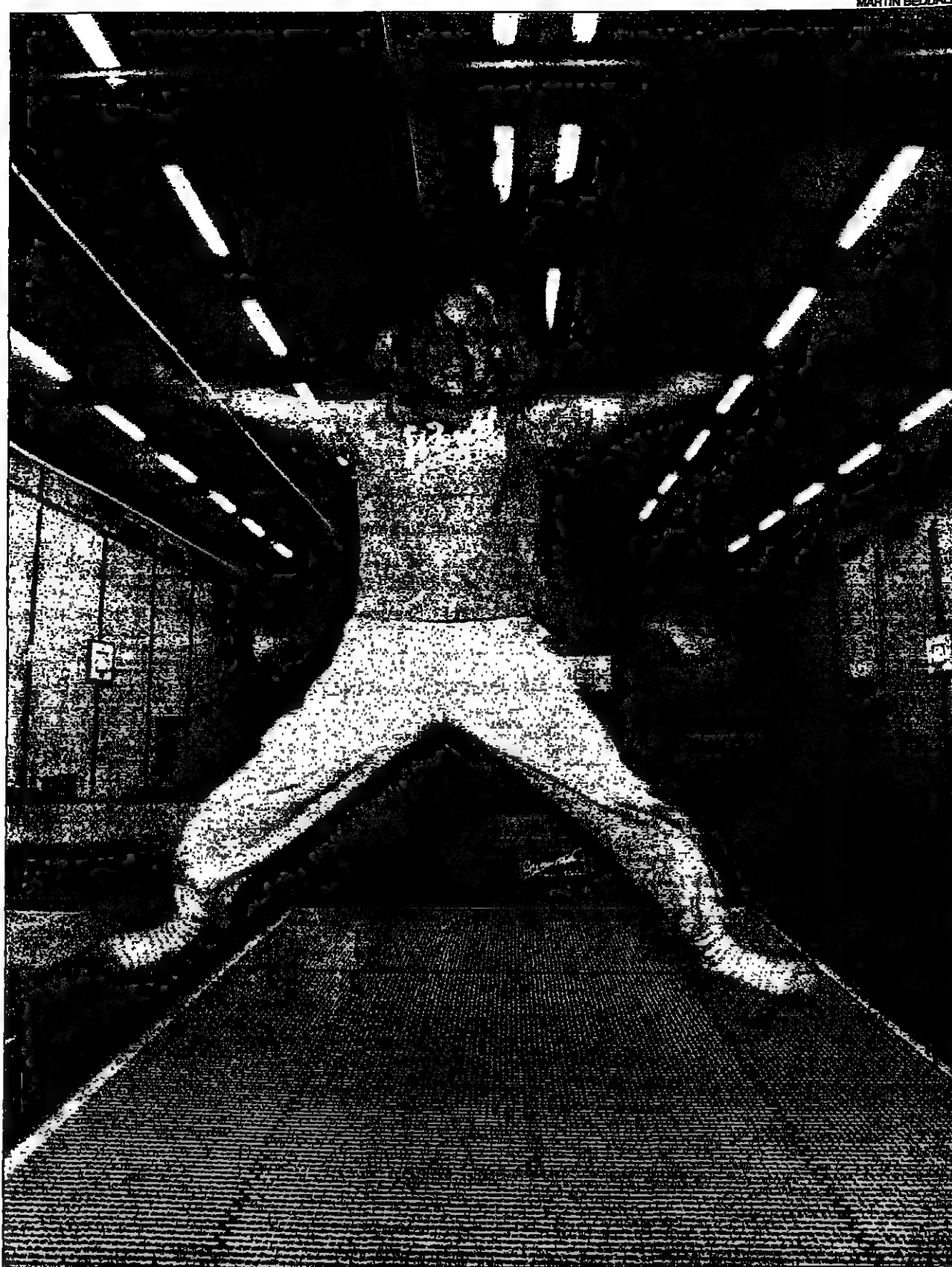
SPORT FOR ALL



My 20-minute lesson, taken by Rob Walker, chief executive of the British Trampoline Federation (BTF), in Sheen Sports Centre, southwest London, incorporated some of the elements taught in the first six months. Any newcomer starts with gentle jumping and learning how to stop: bending your knees on descent. The first few minutes of bouncing was like experiencing consecutive air pockets on an aeroplane: as close as you get to the feeling of unaided flying.

But like real flying, trampolining is more technical. Since the simple somersault of the 1940s, moves have advanced to triple-twisting double somersaults. Competition moves include the barani, a seat drop with half a twist; the ody, a back somersault landing on the stomach; the fluffus, a double somersault with a twist; and the triflus, a triple somersault. Some competitors have recently managed quadruple somersaults.

I stuck to the seat drop which entailed jumping and dropping into a sitting position before standing again. This had to be done without bending my legs, making sure my bottom landed on the



Jump for joy: Fern Ellis, 9, at Sheen Sports Centre, southwest London, is one of 600,000 Britons who trampolined each week

marked cross in the middle of the trampoline while ensuring that my fingers were turned towards my pointed toes, to prevent broken wrists. It required far more concentration than I had expected.

Nor was I prepared for the

complete lack of control or balance in mid-air. Trying to regain this with leg or arm movements proved hopeless. I ended up almost crashing into Walker, who sat on safety mats ahead of me. The incident did though explain why

during the Second World War American pilots and navigators used the trampoline to practise orientation and why astronauts working for the Space Flight programme use them to experience variable body positions in flight. As

Walker says, when you are throwing your body weight around, you have to be aware of everything around you.

With the help of Walker — who, at 63, still somersaults — and his son, Jeff, another trampolining coach, I was able to finish my lesson with a single forward somersault. "Well, I have never seen anyone do it like that before," I was told. "I'll be back to try again."

It was the physical benefits of trampolining realised during the war that convinced PE teachers of its possibilities. A year after Jimmy Garner became the first UK champion in 1948, the first trampoline officially used for physical education was installed in Loxford School in Ilford, Essex. About 600,000 people now trampolined each week with more than 1,500 sports centres and 2,000 secondary schools holding sessions.

As a sport, trampolining requires lengthy and very methodical practice to become skilled but is still largely recreational, being suitable for anyone, including the handicapped. Despite early fears of possible dangers and injury, there have been only 17 serious accidents since 1960 and during all lessons trampolines should be surrounded by other participants, known as spotters.

The first competitions in Britain were held in the 1950s and after living under the umbrella of the Amateur Gymnastic Association the BTF was formed in 1964. After changes to the structure of competitions four years ago to allow more local events, membership of the BTF doubled to 7,000.

Internationally, trampolining has spread to more than 30 countries with Britain alongside Russia, Germany and France among the competition leaders. The next world championships take place in Vancouver in August, preceded by the national competition in Birmingham in July. Competition trampolining was first televised in Great Britain in 1958 but neither championship is likely to receive much coverage this year.

The momentum and rhythm of the slow and graceful bouncing can be felt just by watching, but the repetitive and predictable nature of competition routines, which last less than a minute, has meant that it has never caught on as a spectator sport.

The enjoyment is in doing the jumping.

For details of competitions and lessons: the British Trampoline Federation, 146 College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1BH (0181-863 7278).



Up, up and away: Fern has a lesson with Jeff Walker

THE GREATEST TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight, Channel 4's *The Greatest* gives you the chance to vote for the greatest British sporting hero of them all. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson. The main aim of the series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely — we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports — but *The Greatest* will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

Tonight is the fifth show in the 12-part series. The cases of Jackie Stewart, Unford Christie, Bobby Moore, Tony Danza, Mary Rand and Ian Botham of the 20 shortlisted have been stated. Each week two contenders are eliminated and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Denny Kemp, editor of *Total Sport*, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Tony Danza). Chaired by Gordon Kennedy, the first show will give the results and declare *The Greatest*. The series is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and repeats on Saturdays at 10am. The sporting stars under discussion tonight are Barry John and Nick Faldo. *Times* writers give their appreciations to help your judgments.

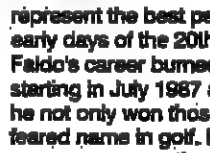
TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS



Barry John

When rugby union's historians gather at the bar and debate great stand-off halves they have seen, Barry John's name will stand tall. Most would confidently assert that the Welshman was unique, both in the style of his play and the manner of his leaving the game. Everything about John was effortless. Though part of a great Welsh tradition, one thinks of Cliff Jones and Willie Davies before the war, of Cliff Morgan, David Watkins and Phil Bennett post-war — none of them possessed quite the languid touch of John at the height of his powers. There seemed no strain, no obvious speed in his running, rather he glided past defenders who seemed rooted to the spot.

His goal-kicking was the simplest of routines when compared with some of today's convoluted approaches. New Zealanders had good cause to remember him when he helped the British Isles to their only series win there, in 1971; they called him "The King", a sobriquet which, in the end, helped create his premature retirement at 27, after six years and 25 caps. The 1971 Lions were the first of rugby's touring sides from the northern hemisphere to create an impression beyond the sports' own public and life in the golden bowl was not for John, the West Wallian who played for Cardiff. He played over more international seasons, created a Welsh record of 50 career points and retired to avoid the adulation which has pursued so many of the players from that golden era of the game.



Nick Faldo

Nick Faldo's three Opens, in 1987, 1990 and 1992, and victories in the US Masters of 1989 and 1990 may seem small beer when compared with the victories in a glorious few months in 1930 in the Open and Amateur Championships of the United States and Britain by the legendary amateur, Bobby Jones, and Jack Nicklaus's 28 major championships between 1959 and 1968. Faldo's five, however, represent the best performance by a British golfer since the early days of the 20th century.

Faldo's career burned fiercest during a remarkable run starting in July 1987 and ending in August 1992. In that time he not only won those five majors, but he was the most feared name in golf. Between June 1988 and August 1992 he was never worse than 19th in a major championship. He was a byword for steadiness.

He made his name as a world-class professional after altering his swing in the mid-Eighties. Hitherto it had been elegant but, judged by the highest standards, rather loose and prone to failure when it was under the greatest pressure. He thought the swing change would take nine months but it actually lasted for two years. Thereafter, however, he knew he had built himself a technique that rarely let him down. There was never any doubting Faldo's courage and his performances in the singles in the Ryder Cup in the 1990s brought this home, never more so than at Oak Hill last year.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

Achievement — for honours won and overall record
Dominance — for quality of opposition, longevity and domination of peers
Style — for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image
Fortitude — for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence
Impact — charisma and transcendence

THE PRIZES

Each week, Channel 4 and *The Times* will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96, to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series: *The Greatest* (Bodley, £14.95). At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all — a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call *The Greatest* phoneline, on 0891 66 55 44. Lines are open from 9pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 39p cheap rate, 49p at other times. By post: complete *The Times* entry form and send it to *The Greatest* Week 4, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Friday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
BARRY JOHN	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NICK FALDO	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>					
Address	<input type="text"/>					
Daytime telephone	<input type="text"/>					
Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual Times competition rules apply.						
<input type="checkbox"/> Tick if you prefer not to receive further information from Channel 4 or The Times						

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Dealer North Love all Rubber bridge

1082	VE	AKQ84	KJ873
KQJ94	W	E	875
Q8732	W	E	J98
92	W	E	J1065
8	W	E	Q84
AK	W	E	104
K73	W	E	1092
A1092	W	E	

W N E S
1 S All Pass Pass Pass 1 H 3 NT
Contract: 3 NT by South Lead: King of spades

I held the South hand. My 3 NT bid was a crude effort — more scientific would be to bid Two Spades. However, I have a horror of getting involved in that sort of sequence, particularly at rubber bridge with a doubtful partner, where too much sophistication can lead to disastrous misunderstandings.

When dummy went down, I was uncomfortably aware that I had done the wrong thing — if the clubs divide, Six Clubs makes; even if they do not, the contract will still make if diamonds are 3-3.

On the king of spades, dummy played low and East played the five. I ducked and won the next spade. What should I do?

Hoping to get some clues, I laid off ace and king of hearts and three rounds of diamonds, on the third of which West threw a heart. I still could not tell whether he was 5-4-2-2 or 5-5-2-1, and I tried to play for clubs 2-2.

one down. Can you see an improvement?

If I trust West's carding (five, then seven of spades, indicating three), I should cross to dummy and play a third spade. If West does not cash his spades, I can subsequently lose a club to East: if he does cash them, East has to make two discards. For the moment, two hearts are safe, but then, when I subsequently play off the top hearts, East is squeezed in diamonds and clubs.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AM
A school of whales
A tusk
A leg
INGLYMUS
A unidirectional joint
The short-eared bat
Mild delirium tremens

FORFEX
A. The pincers of an earwig
B. A proprietary toupee fixative
C. Excommunication
GRUNDY
A. A variety of hornblende
B. A cadger
C. A conventional bigot
Answers on page 34

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Teenage triumph

Ruth Sheldon, one of Great Britain's brightest girl players, has added an illustrious scalp to her collection. In the London Chess Centre Quick-play tournament last weekend, she inflicted a crushing defeat on Dr John Nunn, Britain's No 4 player and noted tactician.

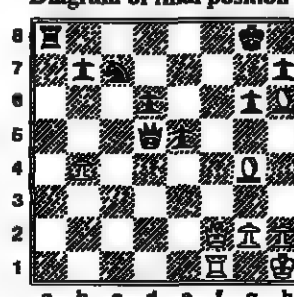
Nunn is noted as an outstanding connoisseur of the King's Indian Defence, but, in this game, Sheldon tied him up in knots on the queenside before delivering the coup de grace. Records indicate that, at the age of 15, Sheldon is the youngest female player in the country to have defeated a grandmaster.

White: Ruth Sheldon
Black: Dr John Nunn
London Chess Centre Quickplay, March 1996

King's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7
4	g4	d6
5	Be2	O-O
6	Nf3	h6
7	d5	as
8	Bes	Ng4
9	Bg5	h5
10	h4	Na6
11	Nd2	Nh6
12	O-O	Oe8
13	as	Bd7
14	h3	h5
15	h3	Nf7
16	Rb1	Sh6
17	Bf2	Nc6
18	b4	asb4
19	asb4	Ns4
20	Qc2	Qe7
21	Nd5	Nf5
22	Ra1	Bxc2

Diagram of final position



Karpov's move

Anatoly Karpov has become an "honorary member" of President Slobodan Milosevic's ruling Socialist party in Belgrade. Meanwhile, Israel has threatened to leave Fide, the World Chess Federation, if the championship match between Karpov and Kamsky goes ahead in Baghdad.

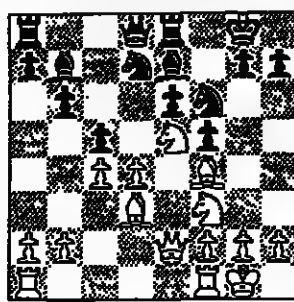
Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. I continue my homage to Alexander Alekhine. This position is from the game Alekhine — Feld, Tarnopol, 1916. In this position, Alekhine exploited the slight weakness of the e-square to manufacture a wonderful winning combination. Can you see how?



Solution, page 34

السلامة

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No maintenance in assignment

Camdex International Ltd v Bank of Zambia
Before Mr Justice Neill, Lord Justice Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse
(Judgment April 3)

The assignment of a bona fide debt by its owner, in accordance with section 136 of the Law of Property Act 1925, was not invalid even if the necessity for litigation to recover it was contemplated.

It was not contrary to public policy for the new owner of the debt even if the original owner retained an interest. What was contrary to public policy and ineffective was an agreement which had maintenance or champerty as its object: such a consequence would not be avoided by dressing up a transaction which had that character and intent as an assignment of a debt.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, the Bank of Zambia, from the judgment of Mr Justice Neill of September 18, 1995 when on an application for summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court by the plaintiff, Camdex International Ltd, he ordered that judgment be entered for the plaintiff in the sum of about 20.5 million Kwacha.

The action was commenced by writ dated May 26, 1995. In their points of claim the plaintiffs pleaded that on May 18, 1982 the Central Bank of Zambia assigned to the defendant the sum of 15 million Kwacha in respect of a loan made to the plaintiff.

On May 19, 1988 the Central Bank of Zambia and the defendant entered into two further agreements re-scheduling part of the defendant's interest liability and extending the deposit of the principal sum and the balance of the interest for a further year.

The defendant paid a sum of 616,098 Kwacha in respect of the loan but otherwise failed to pay the sums due under the 1988 agreements.

Having pleaded the indebtedness of the defendant to the Central Bank of Zambia, the plaintiffs pleaded that by a document in writing dated April 27, 1995 the

Central Bank of Zambia assigned absolutely to the plaintiffs the debt due under the 1988 agreements and that the plaintiffs had given written notice of the assignment to the defendant and that they had accordingly become entitled to the payment of the debt to them.

Mr Timothy Walker, QC and Mr Richard Handyside for the defendant Mr Mark Howard for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that the defendant did not dispute its indebtedness to the Central Bank of Zambia or the validity of the assignment of the debt by the Central Bank of Zambia to the plaintiffs. The principle of law on which the defendant sought to rely was that it was illegal to engage in maintenance or champerty. Until the Criminal Law Act 1967, such activities were both criminal and tortious. The principle of public policy survived: see section 14(2).

A person was guilty of maintenance if he supported litigation in which he had no legitimate interest without just cause or excuse. Champerty was an aggravated form of maintenance and occurred when a person maintaining another's litigation stipulated for a share of the proceeds of the action. What was objectionable was trafficking in litigation. The modern approach was not to extend the types of involvement in litigation which were considered objectionable. There was a tendency to recognise less specific interests as justifying the support of the litigation of another.

Section 136 of the 1925 Act replaced the equivalent provision in the Judicature Act 1873 which made assignable in law any debt or other legal chose in action. The effect of the 1925 Act was to require the legal assignment, subject to the stated formalities, of the assignment and enabled the assignee to sue on the assigned debt and obtain legal remedies in respect of it. The 1873 Act was considered in a number of cases in the Court of Appeal over the following years.

Those decisions were clear. Debts were a species of property recognised before 1873 in equity and since that date in both law and equity. Like other species of property they might be transferred to another and the legal rights which were the incidents of that property might be exercised by the new owner of that property.

It had to be observed from the outset that there was no authority which contradicted the right of the plaintiffs to recover. There was a debt and it was assigned in accordance with the statute.

The need for litigation in order to recover the debt was contemplated by the need for such litigation did not make the assignment illegal or unenforceable. As a matter of fact the debt was undisputed but as a matter of law that was immaterial provided it was said that there was a debt to be assigned.

The price paid by the plaintiffs to purchase the debt was heavily discounted but there was no evidence that it represented anything other than a commercial valuation of the debt. The debt was and was not invalid even if the necessity for litigation to recover it was contemplated.

However, the defendant argued that nevertheless the assignment was not as a matter of law enforceable and relied on *Laurent v Sule* [1983] 1 WLR 829; *Trendtex Trading Corporation v Credit Suisse* [1982] AC 679 and *In re Trepanco Mines Ltd (No 2)* [1963] Ch 199.

Trepanco Mines did not involve any question of an assignment. It was a case of a litigation which was financially supported by another in return for a share of the proceeds. The agreement between the plaintiff and the financier was unquestionably champertous in character and the actual question concerned the duties of the solicitor acting for the plaintiff.

It was authority for the proposition that it was possible to make a champertous agreement in relation to legal proceedings for the recovery of a debt. It did not qualify, or purport to qualify, in any way the earlier authorities.

Laurent v Sule was authority for the proposition that the substance and not the form of any transaction had to be looked at and that, if there was any actual champertous intention, then that illegal or improper intention made the agreement unenforceable. It was well established in English law that an agreement which had an illegal object was likewise

illegal and that an agreement to act contrary to public policy was unenforceable.

The subject matter of the *Trendtex* case was remarkable and unusual. Before the court, the defendant relied on what was said by Lord Wilberforce (at p695), in referring to *Trepanco Mines* and *Laurent v Sule*. Lord Wilberforce had approved those two decisions.

In that context Lord Wilberforce was doing no more than recognising that an agreement could be exposed as having a champertous character whether or not it was dressed up as an assignment, even an assignment of a debt.

In his Lordship's judgment what Lord Wilberforce was saying did not go any further than that nor did the decision in *Trendtex* itself.

Thus none of those authorities altered the effect of the statute and the earlier decisions of the Court of Appeal. An assignment of a debt was not invalid even if the necessity for litigation to recover it was contemplated.

Provided that there was a bona fide debt, it did not become unassignable merely because the debtor chose to dispute it. Suing on an assigned debt was not contrary to public policy even if the assignor retained an interest.

What was contrary to public policy and ineffective was an agreement which had maintenance or champerty as its object: such a consequence could not be avoided by dressing up a transaction which had that character and intent as an assignment of a debt.

But, because the assignment of a debt itself included no element of maintenance and was sanctioned by statute, any objectionable element alleged to invalidate the assignment had to be proved independently and distinctly in the same way as any other alleged illegality had to be proved in relation to a contract which was on its face valid.

The defendant had been unable to show any arguable case that the assignment of the debt by the Central Bank of Zambia was anything other than a bona fide assignment.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL and LORD JUSTICE GIBSON delivered concurring judgments. Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Baker McKenzie.

the commission of a crime and no one could insure himself against liability for criminal conduct.

Second, an award of exemplary damages was designed to punish and deter: public policy should accordingly preclude anyone liable for such an award from being entitled to indemnity against it.

His Lordship rejected both propositions as being relevant as a matter of construction.

Public policy as to enforcement of Q No indemnity for criminal conduct.

That proposition would result in the council being held disinclined to any indemnity whatever in a case involving an exemplary damage award. The argument was:

First, any such award under the policy could only be in one of the categories of case to which exemplary damages were now confined: oppressive, arbitrary or unconstitutional action by the servants of government, including local authorities and the police.

Second, conduct falling within that category would almost inevitably be criminal.

Third, a person could not insure himself against liability for committing a crime.

His Lordship was unanimously agreed that the principle that a person could not insure against a liability consequent on the commission of a crime, whether of deliberate violence or otherwise, save in certain circumstances where, for example, compulsory insurance was required and enforceable even by the insured.

In many cases where the question of liability for exemplary damages was likely to arise for consideration under the policy, the police officer concerned would have acted criminally. Consequently that would be so in cases of assault, even though the injuries were deemed by the police to have been inflicted accidentally.

Where, however, the insurance company's argument broke down was in its assumption that the chief constable's liability was one against which the law forbade indemnity.

There was nothing either in the authorities or in logic to justify extending the principle of public policy so as to deny insurance cover to those whose sole liability was one which arose vicariously, whether as employers or, as here, under an equivalent statutory provision: section 48 of the Police Act 1964.

The only circumstance which could give rise to any doubt or difficulty as to the council's or chief constable's entitlement to indemnity under the policy would be where the individual constable himself had been used and was also prima facie entitled to indemnity under the policy.

However, it was quite inappropriate on what was essentially a construction summons appeal to attempt a definitive ruling on hypothetical facts.

(b) No indemnity for the exemplary damage element of any award.

Should the court for the first

Lancashire County Council v Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd
Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Thorpe
(Judgment April 3)

It was not contrary to public policy for local authorities and chief constables to insure against their vicarious liability to pay damages, including exemplary damages, for the criminal acts of employees or police officers.

An insurance provision indemnifying the insured's legal liability to pay "compensation" was not wholly clear and unambiguous and could in context include awards of exemplary damages.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendant insurers, Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd, against a declaration by Judge Kershaw, QC, in the Queen's Bench Division at Manchester on May 23, 1994 that an insurance policy held by the plaintiffs, Lancashire County Council, provided indemnity for the liability to pay exemplary damages.

The relevant terms of the policy, when read with an attached endorsement, were agreed to be:

"1. The company agrees to indemnify the insured (including the Chief Constable of Lancashire) in respect of all sums which the insured shall become legally liable to pay as compensation arising out of (a) Accidental bodily injury or illness ... to any person ... (The company agrees to regard bodily injury or illness caused by assault committed by a constable as being accidental); (b) Accidental loss or damage caused to property belonging to the insured; (c) Wrongful arrest, malicious prosecution, assault and requests to the person, and a group of claims by plaintiffs alleging abuse while they were in care at one of the council's children's homes."

The insurance company's arguments were essentially threefold:

1. The words "all sums which the insured shall become legally liable to pay as compensation" unambiguously excluded awards of exemplary damages. Those by definition were not paid to compensate the plaintiff, who would be fully compensated by the ordinary damages of the tort. They were paid to punish or deter the defendant, to mark the disapproval which his conduct had provoked: see *AB v South West Water*.

No one could suggest that a 1 per cent rate increase could be such and it was, in his Lordship's view, consistent only with an increase in the consideration for the loan by reason of the increased credit risk represented by a borrower in default.

All the defences raised having failed, judgment was for the plaintiff. Solicitors: Dibb Lupton Broomhead; Lovell White Durrant.

Wiltshire and Another v Tobin and Another

In the context of the International Tennis Federation's anti-doping code, combined in rule 33 of the ITF with the French Protocol incorporated therein, it was neither unfair nor unreasonable that rule 33 reversed the normal burden of proof by requiring a player who had prima facie tested positive for drugs to prove his innocence on the preponderance of the evidence that is, on the balance of probabilities.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse) so held on March 26, dismissing an appeal by Arne Old Wiltshire and Karen Novosok, against Mr Justice Lightman's refusal on March 19 to restrain Brian Tobin, president,

and David Judge, honorary treasurer of the ITF, from continuing with or acting upon proceedings against the appellants by reference to rule 33 of the federation rules.

Mr Justice Lightman in the Chancery Division had cited *Consh v Onslow Fane* [The Times June 26, 1975, CA] and *Gasser v Sison* (unreported, June 15, 1988) and said that he could see nothing approaching unfairness or unreasonableness in the wording or

procedure of the International Tennis Federation Rules.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appellants had not shown an arguable case that the ITF was in fundamental breach of contract, or that rule 33 was unfair or unreasonable and therefore void as being in unlawful restraint of trade, or that the anti-doping procedures followed by the ITF and its review board were so defective as to entitle the court to

grant an interlocutory injunction restraining further proceedings by its appeal committee.

It was important that the rules of international sporting bodies like the ITF should be absolutely clear and most carefully drafted to avoid the possibility of confusion and doubt.

Different sporting bodies should, as far as possible, adopt in their rules common practices for drug testing.

Services Ltd [1993] QB 507, 528-529.

2. Even if "compensation" could and would otherwise be construed to include exemplary damages, so to construe it would be contrary to public policy. Those liable for exemplary damages awards ought not to be indemnified against such liability. "Compensation" should accordingly be more narrowly construed.

3. Even if the policy on its true construction provided indemnity against liability for exemplary as well as compensatory damages, public policy rendered the policy unenforceable in exemplary damage cases.

Construction (questions of public policy aside).

Although his Lordship accepted the insurance company's submission that the natural and ordinary meaning of "compensation" in the context of a legal liability to pay damages was one which excluded any element of exemplary damages, his Lordship could not accept that that meaning was wholly clear and unambiguous.

On the contrary it involved very much a literal, lawyers' understanding of the term and was one which would not command universal acceptance. Many, including no doubt most recipients, would regard compensation to mean all damages, of whatever character and however calculated, payable to the victim of a tort.

That, as a matter of language, the word was capable of bearing that broader and less legalistic meaning was apparent from Lord Justice Staughton's judgment in *Riches v New Group Newspapers Ltd* [1986] QB 266, 268.

Given, therefore, that the word was capable of bearing either meaning, that is, as including, or as excluding exemplary damages, one asked which meaning it bore in the context of the particular policy. To that question there seemed only one possible answer: it included exemplary damages.

The policy expressly encompassed claims against the police for assault (demeaned assault), wrongful arrest, malicious prosecution and false imprisonment. Torts of that sort by their very nature attracted claims for exemplary damages. That and other considerations strongly supported the council's contention that the word was to be construed in its broader sense.

Further, in cases of ambiguity and where other rules of construction failed, an instrument should be construed more strongly against its maker or grantor. Therefore, were there any doubt as to which construction would otherwise apply, it would plainly be right to resolve the ambiguity in favour of the council.

Public policy as an aid to construction.

The insurance company's argument on public policy involved two distinct propositions.

First, any exemplary damage award for which indemnity might be sought under the policy would almost inevitably have involved

the commission of a crime and no one could insure himself against liability for criminal conduct.

Second, an award of exemplary damages was designed to punish and deter: public policy should accordingly preclude anyone liable for such an award from being entitled to indemnity against it.

His Lordship rejected both propositions as being relevant as a matter of construction.

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However, it was quite inappropriate on what was essentially a construction summons appeal to attempt a definitive ruling on hypothetical facts.

(b) No indemnity for the exemplary damage element of any award.

Should the court for the first

Default interest increase is not a penalty

Lordsvale Finance plc v Bank of Zambia
Before Mr Justice Colman
(Judgment March 20)

A provision in an agreement for a prospective default interest in the rate of default interest was not a penalty.

MR JUSTICE COLMAN so held in the Queen's Bench Division in entering "summary" judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for the plaintiffs, Lordsvale Finance plc, in an action claiming against the defendant, the Bank of Zambia, payment of the principal sum owed under two agreements together with default interest.

The plaintiffs were assignees of rights arising under two oil import facility agreements made in 1984 and 1985 between two syndicates of banks and the defendant under which large financial facilities were made available to the defendant. The defendant had defaulted when the facilities advanced had fallen due for repayment in 1986.

The amount of default interest claimed by the plaintiffs in 1995 exceeded the principal amounts due under the agreements. Judgment had been entered against the defendant in a first action for the principal amounts and when the defendant failed to pay the default interest a second action was commenced.

The defendant served points of defence which included the contention that under an article of the agreement which specified how default interest would be calculated, part of the method of calculation was unenforceable because it was in the nature of a penalty.

MR JUSTICE COLMAN said that the defendant contended, inter alia, that in as much as the construction of default interest included an unexplained 1 per cent in addition to the margin and the cost of obtaining default deposits to fund the bank's participation, the 1 per cent was a penalty. It was said to be in derogation of the borrower's sole function being to ensure compliance with the agreements.

His Lordship said that the point was of considerable importance to English banking law because it was well known that a default interest rate uplift was very widely used, particularly in syndicated loans such as in the present case.

Having considered the history of the relevant case law, his Lordship said that there seemed to be no reason to principle why a contractual provision, the effect of which was to increase the consideration payable under an executory contract upon the happening of a default, should be struck down as a penalty if the increase could in the circumstances be explained as commercially justifiable, provided always that its dominant purpose was not to deter the other party from breach.

That the plaintiff sought documents concerning all maintenance, repairs and service records on all doors on all Inter-City trains; reports on incidents involving the opening of doors while trains were in motion, by they notices or not; reports on failures of all doors, hinge equipment and securing devices; and reports of claims by passengers or staff who had fallen from moving trains.

The width of the request was staggering. The judge, concluding it to be oppressive, suggested a sensible way forward: that the plaintiffs' expert should look at two recent independent reports, by Knight Wending and by the Health and Safety Executive, which dealt with the problem of doors opening, set out statistics and contained recommendations. Thereafter the plaintiff could be advised as to the documents necessary for her case.

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When I was young, going to work for a building society meant a dull future but a secure one — a few years behind a counter, a few in head office doing the accounts, a few more in head office doing precious little at all and a comfortable retirement.

Now the counter clerks and accountants are being sacked in their thousands. Meanwhile, Peter Robinson, who is no longer with the Woolwich, has twitched aside the curtain and shown just what rewards might be available to those who claw their way to the top. Those counter clerks are being sacrificed because building societies have taken to cutting each other's throats and those of the banks, and vice versa. This is called the benefits of a competitive market.

So much for housing. Another basic necessity of life was threatened with the same benefits last week, the Government having decided to extend its enormously successful plans for gas and electricity, which threaten disaster for both, into water.

Various doubts immediately emerge. Yorkshire Water, for one, had better not be too zealous about going for new customers elsewhere, although I suppose its skills in shipping the tariff around in tankers might usefully be contracted out to other companies. The whole exercise was marketed by the political spin-doctors as a way of getting back at the "fat cats". This implies the naive belief that we will place our orders with the supplier that pays its

executives least, thereby entrusting our business to the management statistically pre-selected to be the industry's worst.

There is also consumer inertia. Knock on any door in the country and offer to cut the telephone bill by 10 or 15 per cent, and you will receive a dusty response. I know this because that is just what the cable phone companies have been doing, and little joy they have had of it. A former colleague of mine used to spend many a happy hour plugged into his home computer fiddling with his various savings and bank accounts on virtually a daily basis to maximise the interest. Doubtless he made a few pennies; most of us cannot be bothered, and the same goes for finding cheaper insurance — or cheaper water, cheaper gas or cheaper electricity, I suspect.

But when you look at the fun being had in bringing competition into the last two areas, you wonder if ministers are already in a hole and digging furiously — and in danger of fracturing a water main. Last week we learnt that such is the disarray in the national pipeline system that British Gas and the independent suppliers cannot agree

Can't pay? Then you will have to pay more



between them just how much is in the system. The pilot scheme to introduce 500,000 householders in the South West to a fully-competitive market this summer is three or four months behind schedule, and the week's news does not inspire confidence for this, or the coming of a countrywide competitive market over the next two years.

The 1998 deadline for full competition for electricity is in similar disarray. The industry has fallen out, not for the first time, but now over the systems being introduced to allow settlement of customers' bills. But assume that it all works, and that one day we each have a parcel

of water, power and gas suppliers offering cheap deals. Prices will fall — but perhaps not for everyone.

There is a theory gaining ground called the social cost of distribution, which says that the rich will get the low bills and the poor the high ones. This is because there is nothing in the rules to stop the new entrants cherry-picking the better-off consumers and offering them the cheapest rates.

Any utility knows that 15 to 20 per cent of its customers struggle to pay their bills at some point. These are the Can't Pays, not the Won't Pays, who are very few, or the Forgot to Pays, which includes nearly all of us at one time or another. These people are incredibly expensive to service. The practice of disconnection has largely died out. Can't Pays are now offered debt counselling — this is the 1990s, remember — pre-payment meters and other such help. The meters are expensive to install, the rest takes up administrative time. As a result, a poor household costs £50 per year more to supply with electricity than a well-off one — on an average annual bill of £300 or so.

Power companies already discriminate as far as they are allowed

to, offering a better rate to those who pay by direct debit and a worse rate for pre-payment meters. But neither they nor British Gas are allowed to refuse to supply anyone just because they have a dodgy credit record.

The new suppliers coming into the market, and they include hard-nosed retailers such as Sainsbury and Tesco, can do just that. They can ensure their customer base is stripped of the Can't Pays, or even the A Bit Tight This Month. They can use demographic data, restricting themselves to the more prosperous neighbourhoods. Or they can offer individual and less favourable terms to bad credit risks — a £500 deposit, for example, a sum out of the reach of poor families.

The less profitable customers will have to stay with the existing suppliers. Because they are more expensive to service, those firms' margins will suffer, or they will have to play the same game. They cannot by law charge higher tariffs per unit of gas or power for those less able to pay. But there are ways of discriminating further against the poor, such as raising the cost of pre-paid metering while forcing more of them to take it.

Some in the industry have already sounded a warning about the dangers of the social cost of distribution, and these warnings are now soaking through to the attention of the Labour Party. It is a complex subject to hammer into a 15-second soundbite. But it is an important one.

Decision day looms for Lloyd's

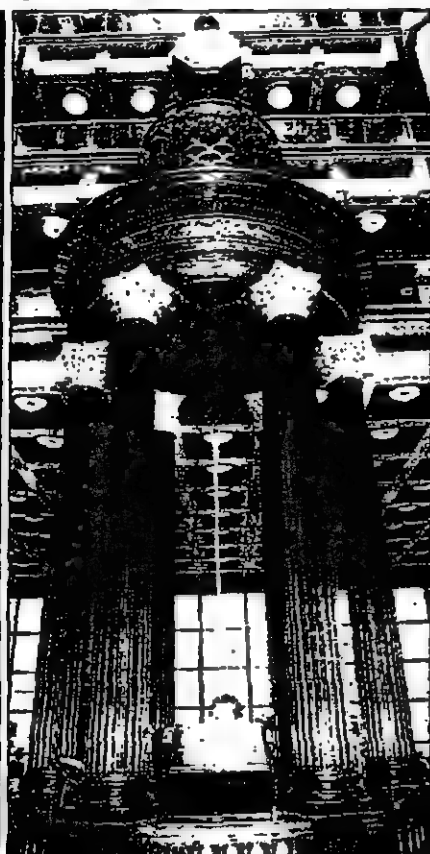
As Lloyd's names assess a critique of its rescue plan, Sarah Bagnall considers the way ahead

In July, more than 34,000 people may make the most important decision of their lives. Will they accept or reject Lloyd's of London's settlement offer, currently £2.8 billion? Whichever way names jump, the outcome will have severe ramifications not only for the financial predicament in which each now stands, but for countless others. The problem for many names is knowing what to do.

Lloyd's proposes that names pay a "reinsurance" premium to a specially formed reinsurance company to offload their liabilities relating to risks insured before 1993. Many of these debts relate to asbestosis and pollution claims from the US and were underwritten as long ago as the 1960s.

To encourage names to agree to the plan, the insurance market has collected £2.8 billion, which is being distributed among names to try to cut the premiums for every name to affordable levels.

If names accept the offer, they will obtain a degree of "finality" and be able to resign from the market and walk away. Furthermore, the



The world of names, the Lutine Bell and Sir David Berriman, leader of Lloyd's members, face major changes

estates of deceased names will be able to be closed and assets distributed. At present, a name cannot leave the market if in syndicates exposed to unquantifiable loss.

In return, names give up their rights to litigate against a mass of possible targets, such as members' agents and managing agents. This is because

the insurers of these parties are contributing to the settlement package and, as a result, have effectively offered an out-of-court settlement.

Many names are unsure whether to accept the offer, and — as some see it — Lloyd's off the hook, or whether to dismiss the offer in preference for the unknown and so forgo the chance of having their debts capped. There is no definitive answer.

Various players, such as the Lloyd's Names Association's Working Party, have put forward alternative plans to that of Lloyd's, claiming that they are "better" for names. We now enter the grey and shifting world of the hypothetical.

It is impossible to impose laboratory conditions on the insurance market and conclude that the mixture of 34,000 names, X units of lawsuits and Y units of cash will result in Z. This inability arises from the incoherent nature of Lloyd's and inability to look into the future and ascertain what actions the various parties will take or the outcome of many potential legal claims.

As a result, assessing alternatives to Lloyd's Reconstruction and Renewal Plan is far from easy. This task has, however, been tackled by Slaughter and May, a firm of solicitors. The Lloyd's Settlement Validation Steering Group, chaired by Sir David Berriman, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members, commissioned from the firm the report into alternatives to R&R that was delivered at the weekend. The report recognises the size of its task, saying: "It is... [a] consequence of the complexity of the Lloyd's system that persuasive alternative arguments will always be available."

However, the stark conclusion of the 50-page report is: "If Lloyd's ceases to carry on business, it is unlikely that any set-

tion of the Lloyd's community will be better off." It emphasises that this remark is not advice that names accept Lloyd's offer and that they must make their own decisions.

The report considers likely consequences if Lloyd's went into run-off — when the market ceases to underwrite new business. There would be no premium income. The market's cash flow would dry up. The result would be no cash to pay claims or expenses, with the situation worsened by a possible rush by policyholders to enforce or secure claims.

Furthermore, the Lloyd's Central Fund would no longer be available to cover names' losses, because Lloyd's would have to retain its funds to meet its own debts, such as the burden of Lloyconer, in which liabilities of the PCW syndicates were reinsured.

American policyholders would probably renew efforts to establish pre-answer bonds, whereby a claimant can make an insurer put up money for the full sum claimed before the legal action is heard, irrespective of the claim's merits. It is also likely that Lloyd's American trust funds would be frozen, making assets held in the US unavailable to meet claims.

The inter-dependence of names means that many solvent ones would become insolvent because a managing agent would not be able to pay out claims lodged against an insolvent name. As a result, the Department of Trade and Industry will bar a solvent name from continuing reinsurance as an asset if that reinsurance is provided by an insolvent name. Given the web of reinsurance between syndicates, knock-on effects would trap many names.

The LNAWP argues that the managing agent will be able to pay out claims relating to insolvent names. However, un-

certainty over the legality of such a move would probably cause inertia. In consequence, the whole market would freeze and no money could leave it. What is more likely is that the DTI could demand that names pump substantial sums of money into the system to cover their potential liabilities.

Slaughter and May says the basic question is whether run-off would cost names more than R&R, and answers: "It is difficult not to conclude that run-off would probably lead to increased expense and difficulties for names. Syndicates would not be able to close and names would be trapped until all their liabilities had been met."

If names were asked to inject more funds into a collapsed Lloyd's, many might refuse and form action groups to resist any attempts to recover their assets. They could test an LNAWP theory, called Dead Man's Stop. This is the argument that the policyholder's claim is against those names who were on the syndicate when the risk was insured, which, in the case of asbestosis, could be 30 years ago.

As a result, a policyholder has to pursue his claim with those original names, many of whom may be dead or lacking adequate assets. Dead names' estates would be reopened and beneficiaries pursued for the assets. Though it is not stated

in the report, a policyholder has the right, if an estate's assets are inadequate, to pursue its trustees and executors. This is causing worry in the legal and accounting professions.

The policyholder will progress down the chain of syndicate years through the reinsurers to close process, pulling thousands of resigned names back into the frame. When it finally landed at the door of the present-day syndicate's names, the claim will have swelled by the loading on costs.

The LNAWP argues, however, that present-day names would obtain finality because the policyholder would be unable to work his way down the chain. What is more likely, according to Slaughter and May, is that Lloyd's would not let one group of names breach their obligations to another group of names. This obligation arises from the reinsurance to close process.

Policyholders are not likely to let names pull this stunt either, and would probably form an action group to fight their case. The report also considers whether there are other ways to obtain finality for names, and if so, how they compare with the proposed method. The report looks at statutory finality: Dead Man's Stop; avoiding liability on grounds of fraud; avoiding liability on grounds of material non-disclosure; and the Clementson case.

It concludes: "We are unable to think of a better form of finality, for the generality of names, than that offered by the proposed reinsurance into Equitas." That is in spite of recognising that it is not true finality — but is the same as the finality offered to names through the normal reinsurance to close process anyway. That is, liability reverts to them if the reinsurance is inadequate.

Overall, the alternatives do not look enticing. However, the report says: "There will undoubtedly be some names who remain so angry that they do not care whether Lloyd's survives or not. This is why more than £2.8 billion may be required for the R&R proposals to achieve acceptance... In our view, it is unlikely to be in the interests of any section of the community to take Lloyd's over the edge."

The final sentence of the report says it all. Referring to the difficulty that names have in making their minds up, it says: "All we can do is to express the hope that the Council [of Lloyd's] will succeed in finding enough additional money to make it easier for each name to make that very difficult decision."

A fan's fight for his hero

Cinderella Man. Radio 5 Live, 10.05pm. I had never heard of Paddy Monaghan, bare-knuckle fighter and builder's labourer, hero-worshiped by his anti-Vietnam the champion was stripped of his title because he refused to fight in the Vietnam stance. Monaghan organised a petition to get him to the US. He became a close friend of Ali. A grateful Ali visited him in his cash-strapped corner. At Christmas time, the champion visited the cash-strapped corner. At Christmas time, the champion visited the cash-strapped corner. At Christmas time, the champion visited the cash-strapped corner.

Monday Play: Uganda. Radio 4, 7.45pm. The imagined sound I kept hearing as I listened to Judith Johnson's play was the rattle of drawbridges being raised and portcullises being lowered. Uganda is about people who can neither physically nor mentally cut themselves off from the rest of the world. The principal rescue is the ailing widower (Ronald Pickup) whose only travelling is done with a world atlas on his lap. He has marked out his territory and his route just as surely as his caring daughter (Bharati Patel) has marked out hers. Right up until the play's final lines, this fixing of personal borders remains the last-moment of Uganda, an emotionally satisfying play. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Charlie Jordan 6.30 Keweenaw 11.00am Radio 1 Roadshow 12.30am Nicky Campbell 3.30am Claire Wren, Ina Newstead and the 'Salam' saga 7.00am Radio 1 Sound City 10.00am Mark Radcliffe 12.10am Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 3.00am Alex Lester 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15am Pause for Thought 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 8.15am Pause for Thought 8.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am The Doctor Mysterio 1.00pm The Marmalade and Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber 3.30am Ed Stewart 5.05am John Dunn 7.00am Hubert Gregg 7.30am Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Days, and at 8.30am Big Band Special 8.05am Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00am Radio Days 10.30am The Jamieson 12.05am Steve Madden, Ina Newstead for Thought at 1.30am Alex Lester

RADIO 3

5.00am Morning Reports, mid 5.45am Wake Up to Money 6.00am The Breakfast Programme 6.35am 7.35am racing preview 8.35am The Magazine, mid 10.35am News from Europe 11.35am Daily News Special 12.05am Sport On 1.30am FA Carling Premiership football, rugby league: Leeds v St Helens, motor racing: the first two rounds of the British Touring Car Championship 7.00am News Extra 7.58am Wembley Winners 1970 — Chelsea v Leeds 8.00am The Monday Match, Blackburn v Newcastle 10.05am Choralists' Main Show Concert 11.00am Night Extra 11.15am The Evening Concert, includes 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy War 7.00am Simon Bates 10.00am Jonathan King 12.00am Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anne Robinson 4.00pm Scott Cranley 7.00pm Sean Bonaguidi 10.00pm James White 1.00am 5.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 4

5.00am On Air, Vivid (Violin) Concerto in A minor, Op 7 No 4, Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor, Op 57, Appassionata); Bar (Magnificat; Nunc dimittis); Debussy (Berceuse, Images); Stravinsky (The Firebird Act 1, excerpt); Mozart (Symphony No 41 in C, K 551)

9.00am Morning Collection, with Catherine Young, John Adams (Two Fanfares; Tromba; Lotaria; Short Ride in a Fast Machine); Chopin (Two Polonaises, Op 26) Bruch (Scottish Fantasy)

10.00am Musical Encounters, includes Wagner (Overture: Das Liebesverbot); Debussy (Premiere nocturne for cello and piano); 10.25am Artist of the Week: Boris Berezovsky, piano, plays Liszt (Etude of exultation transcendentale Nos 1-3); 10.52am Bach (Concerto No 12; Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen); Rubinstein (Cello Sonata No 2 in G); Mozart (Ah-pardona al primo allietto, La Clemenza di Tito); Berg (Chamber Concerto, 2nd mvt)

12.00am Composer of the Week: George Mumford, includes, Suite, Nobilis Juvenis (Forelegum II); Toccata No 7 in C (Apparatus musicalis organicus)

1.00pm Ulster Orchestra, conducted by John Lubbock: Haydn (Symphony No 83 in G minor, The Hen); Shostakovich (Piano Concerto No 2); Rite (Symphony No 3 in E flat)

2.10pm Salomon Gaster, Mozart (Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K 546); Haydn (String

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am News 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 News 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Soundbite 7.30 Andy Kershaw 8.00 News 8.15 On the Road 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 10.00 News 10.05 News Report 10.15am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 11.45am Off the Shelf 12.00am News 1.15am Britain Today 1.30am Andy Kershaw's World of Music 2.00am News 2.05am News 2.30am News 2.50am News 3.00am News 3.15am News 3.30am News 3.45am News 4.00am News 4.15am News 4.30am News 4.45am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.15am News 5.30am News 5.45am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.15am News 6.30am News 6.45am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 7.45am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 11.55am News 12.00am News 12.15am News 12.30am News 12.45am 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Why are the British always the bad guys?

Unfortunately, there's no special term for the Uncle Toms of British Equity who play Hollywood's villains, but unless somebody starts naming them ("Sheriff of Nottingham"), our national self-esteem will be permanently done for. I have never used the expression "marré only by", but there's always a first time: last night's *Gulliver's Travels* (Channel 4) was brilliant, compelling and witty, marred only (ouch) by its decision to cast the Lilliputians (absurd, tiny, warlike as Brits, and the Brobdingnagians as Americans. When John Sullivan's *Over Here* actually joined in this Brit-bashing later in the evening (in a funny old sort of a way) coincidence compounded paranoia. Good grief, everybody is out to get us. Even we are out to get us.

In all other respects, however, the Easter weekend of drama was

clearly the high point of the year. Anybody who thought they could concentrate on scrubbing loam out of their fingernails was, alas, in for a heavy time lolling in front of the telly wiping tears out of their eyes, and stuffing cheap milk chocolate down their necks. Most notably, Good Friday had *Ekismu Day* (BBC1). Jack Rosenthal's delicate comedy about parents scolding their teenagers to Cambridge interviews. It was holiday drama par excellence (and I've never said that before either).

Ekismu Day sometimes looked in danger of running out of steam, but instead it achieved something really remarkable, with an emotional climax that seemed daringly Expressionistic. It all happened in a manipulative instant. As Maudie Upman watched her son wave goodbye — at the exact point when she knew she had lost him — director Peter Haggard pulled that corny old zoom-in-dolly-out effect

and broke your heart. (Sniff.) Much imitated since *Jaws*, this technique veriginously sucks the individual out of the landscape, and also sucks the viewer into the actor. (Sniff.) Then, while the quartet of abandoned parents stood shivering in the quad, the camera roamed around them, circling them like something from a romance of youth. Well, all I can say is thanks. The acting was superb, especially from Lipman, who knows the value of emptying her face as her confused husband ("I'm not with you, love") was wonderful.

Back with the plot against the limeys, *Gulliver's Travels* gave Channel 4 a rare drama coup. The channel has been so thoroughly colonised by Liverpoolians that any actor not equipped with lines such as "Go Ed Will Ya Soft Lad" is a definite plus. *Gulliver's Travels* needs no such



Lynne Truss

negative distinction, however: it is surely destined to become a classic. Personally, I expected to be impressed by the special effects, (inadequate term), but was not prepared for the brilliance of the story-telling. Years ago Channel 4 ran another Henson production — *Jim Henson's Greek Myths*, on Sundays — which similarly wove together narrator and event to breathtaking effect. It is the script

equivalent of zoom-in-dolly-out. The device here was simple: Gulliver (Ted Danson) returns from all his four voyages at once, having been absent nine years. He is considered mad, because he keeps insisting 'he's a little people and big people. As he tells his story, he zigzags between past and present with alarming ease, his confused mental worlds overlapping when (for instance) he pulls a cloth off a table (he's describing his heroic underwater capture of a tiny fleet, or when huge ears of wheat erupt through splintered floorboards between his legs, returning him forcibly to a Brobdingnagian cornfield. Each transition is astonishing, well-judged and beautifully prepared.

Ted Danson is a revelation — and to be serious for a minute, he looks very lovely with the long hair and the frock coat. Whether Jonathan Swift would recognise his book is hard to say. His nose-

pinching disgust of humanity has been silently removed (this Gulliver does not scramble over the monstrous nipples of the Brobdingnagian women, noticing huge hairs dangling like ropes). Such nuances poses an interesting problem for tonight, obviously, if Gulliver is to encounter the Yahoos.

Where was I? Oh yes, "marré only by". Like *Gulliver*, John Sullivan's *Over Here* (BBC1) concludes tonight. Like *Gulliver*, it is expensive drama with special effects, this time involving dogfights and comic, devastating enemy fire on East Anglian air bases during the war which is funny or not, depending on where you sit. *Over Here* was a bit slow to get going, and the American scenes were uniformly tiresome — especially the Yank idealist listening to radio reports of the war, and vowing to volunteer. Perhaps John

Sullivan (*Only Fools and Horses*) is just better at cynicism — which is where all the jokes came from. Meanwhile Martin Clunes and Sam West were both excellent; and Clunes, with his "funny old sort of a way" speeches ("You see, in a funny old sort of a way, I lied") has clearly thrown down a challenge to Edward Fox. It's not every day you witness history like that.

Finally, *Band of Gold* (ITV) bowed out last night after a stunning second series — deeper and better even than the first, with quality acting right up to its bum. "Jesus I can't Andie any more!" said Geraldine James last night, but don't believe her, she's said that before. Reprised Carol Innes, who faced a martyr committed suicide in Harrogate, and brilliant Lena Headey (Colene) earned her place in the cast of the next series. "Come say iara to Tracy," they said at the end. I wept. I did really.

7.00am News (Ceefax) and weather (497205) 7.10 Binky Bill (i) (6831205) 7.35 Postman Pat Special (i) (7773359)

8.00am News (Ceefax) and weather (535814) 8.10 Peter Pan and the Pirates (i) (s) (7024972) 8.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (i) (6724514)

9.00am News (Ceefax) (5151224) 9.05 Mighty Max (i) (70743) 9.25 POK (i) (s) (7456601) 10.00 Playdays (i) (s) (6025601)

10.25am FILM: Blackboard's Ghost (1998). Disney comedy with Peter Ustinov. Directed by Robert Stevenson (15187408)

12.10pm Pandas of the Sleeping Dragon. In the wild, in China (i) (s) (1755866)

1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (42966750) 1.10 Regional News (16731392)

1.15 Neighbours (Ceefax) (i) (78312205) 1.40 Torvill and Dean: Face the Music. The farewell tour by the ice-dancers and company, including their best-known routines (Ceefax) (i) (8804175)

2.35 FILM: Mary Poppins (1964) starring Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke and David Tomlinson. Classic Disney comedy musical about a magical nanny. Directed by Robert Stevenson (8800224)

4.50 Final Score (i) (6883330) 5.15 Beatrice Potter's Mr Tod (i) (1370863) 5.40 Neighbours (520835)

6.05 News (Ceefax) and weather (523883) 6.20 Regional News (151048)

6.25 Inside the Toybox — A Toy Story Special (Ceefax) (i) (783111)

7.00 That's Showbusiness. Mike Smith is joined by Denise Black, Despak Verma, Lily McInerney and Phil Jupitus (Ceefax) (i) (4595)

7.30 Watchdog. Alice Beer presents a special edition devoted entirely to shopping (Ceefax) (i) (683)

8.00 EastEnders. Kathy helps Pat to reach a decision: Cindy tries to find some enthusiasm for Ian's trip (Ceefax) (i) (3243)

8.30 The Vicar of Dibley (Ceefax) (i) (367953) 9.10 Over Here. The second and concluding part of a comedy-drama written by John Sullivan and set during the Second World War. With Samuel West, Martin Clunes, Sharon Gless, Jaye Goode, Todd Boyce and Geraldine James (3881801)

10.45 News (Ceefax) and weather (808934) 11.10 Match of the Day. Highlights from tonight's FA Carling Premiership clash between Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United (i) (783111)

12.00 FILM: Al Capone (1959, b/w) with Rod Taylor, Robert Strauss, José de Santos, Ray Spain and Martin Balsam. Authentically violent account of the rise and fall of the notorious gangster, Young Capone appears on the scene in 1919 and murders his way to the top. Success through the sale of bootleg liquor and the St Valentine's Day massacre are followed by his disintegration while incarcerated in Alcatraz. Directed by Richard Wilson (962625)

1.45am Weather (5621557)

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8.00am Open University: A Migrant's Heart (705562) 8.25 Questions of National Identity (852923)

7.15 Pages from Ceefax (1632801) 7.20 See Hear Breakfast News (1620866) 7.30 Songs of the Civil War (i) (82696)

8.30 Songs of Praise (i) (Ceefax) (s) (9421578) 9.05 FILM: A Canterbury Tale (1944, b/w) with Eric Portman and Sheila Hancock. Drama set during the Second World War. Directed by Michael Powell and Eric Pressburger (14112446)

11.05 Argentine Grand Prix (i) (s) (3588663) 11.45 Ice Skating Gala (i) (945137)

12.35am The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Planet Earth, an Explorer's Guide: On the Edge of the World (1/5) (i) (s) (8880595)

1.35 FILM: Houseboat (1958). With Cary Grant and Sophie Loren. A woman takes a job as a governess for a widower's unruly brood. Directed by Melville Shavelson (Ceefax) (2324755)

3.20 FILM: Anabasis (1968) with Gregory Peck and Sophia Loren. An American agrees to decipher a hieroglyph in the interests of world peace. Directed by Stanley Donen (Ceefax) (31186137)

5.00 Ready, Steady, Cook! (5601) 5.30 Esther (i) (156)

6.00 Attenborough in Paradise (Ceefax) (i) (29446)

7.00 Anne Frank Remembered. Jon Blair's Oscar-winning documentary about the life and legacy of the teenager whose diary records two years in hiding in an Amsterdam office building during the Second World War. In a combination of archive film with contemporary footage, it tells the story of Anne's life from childhood in Frankfurt and Amsterdam to discovery and death in Bergen-Belsen in 1945 (i) (3358569)

8.55 Close Up Double Bill. Richard Fleischer and Nick Park select scenes from their favourite films (545750)

9.10 The X-Files. Mulder becomes obsessed with investigating a case that closely parallels an encounter he experienced as a child (i) (Ceefax) (i) (310137)

9.58 This Life. Anna resorts to devout means to get her own way and Warren loses his temper over a muesli yoghurt (Ceefax) (i) (824578)

10.38 FILM: The Untouchables (1982) with Woody Allen, Liane Denner, Judy Davis, Juliette Lewis, Liam Neeson and Mia Farrow. A happily married couple begin to re-evaluate their marriage when they are splitting up. Directed by Woody Allen (Ceefax) (88803982). Followed by *Video PlusCode* (88803982)

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Dennis Waterman's bestubbed undercover man returns for one of his occasional appearances in a thriller which is undemanding fare for a Bank Holiday. This is a drama where plot is almost everything, and a complicated plot it is, but hold on to the words "drugs" and "money laundering" and you will soon get the drift. Waterman is called in by his icy woman controller (Susan Waddock) when an army captain is murdered, and although this seems improbable, he becomes a messenger with a quasi-romantic encounter with the dead man's girlfriend (Saskia Wickham, taking a break from *Peak Practice*). The laundress-in-chief is played by the late Simon Cadell in his final television role. It is not one of his more testing, but he makes a smooth villain.

The Vicar of Dibley (BBC1, 8.30pm)
Dawn French returns for an Easter one-off as the village vicar in genial conflict with her faithful parishioners. The name of Richard (Blackadder) Curtis as scriptwriter may have prepared us for something more subversive than this amiable comic view of English village life but it is a likeable show which deserves further exposure. The juxtaposition of French, once a leader of alternative comedy, and such stalwarts of a more conventional tradition as Gary Waddock, John Burt Foster, Peter Cook and the incomparable Liz Smith, has proved especially fruitful. The bonus is Emma Chambers' guileless Alice, forever baffled by the vicar's dubious jokes after the final

Post Office targets the travel trade

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Post Office has set its sights on becoming the biggest travel agent in Britain and plans to sell cut-price scheduled airline tickets in most of its 20,000 branches across the UK.

The service is now available at the Trafalgar Square office in London, where a six-month trial is being carried out. If successful, it will be rolled out nationally in up to 600 of the largest high street branches.

Within a year, thousands more branches could have computer systems in place to enable customers to fix up their travel documents alongside buying stamps and postal orders.

The move will increase the price war between Britain's 7,000 travel shops and high street agencies, which have been suffering this year from lack of customer demand for holidays, and fierce price competition.

The Association of British Travel Agents has not been consulted over the plans. It

said it was unaware that the service had begun.

The Post Office has made no secret of its ambitions to become a one-stop holiday shop. It believes that the service, which involves the sale of flights only, and not holiday packages, will complement its existing foreign exchange and travel insurance sales through its 20,000 counters. A spokesman said: "We are visited by 28 million people every week, so the opportunities are enormous."

The Post Office is not alone in recognising the money-making potential of the travel business, estimated to be worth about £7 billion this year. Banks, clothing chains, including River Island, the fashion store, and supermarkets are all keen to secure a slice of the profit.

Both travel insurance and foreign exchange have proved popular with customers and may encourage the Post Office to expand further into personal

financial services by the end of the decade. At present, customers are able to buy foreign currency and travel cheques on demand at 600 larger outlets, but those using 19,000 smaller offices need to order their currency and cheques in advance.

A Post Office spokesman said of the Trafalgar Square trial that it was too early to say whether the customers had been buying tickets for Easter travel or for later in the year.

The Post Office is offering seats unsold by scheduled airlines. It said that it had no plans at present to sell surplus charter airline tickets, although the possibility of introducing such a service at a later date had not been ruled out.

The spokesman added that Post Office branches might also consider selling theatre tickets in the future, although such a move was not an option at present. He added: "We do not believe air tickets will be sold in some of the more rural areas, but we do feel there is a market for them in larger towns and cities."

Richard Dykes, head of Post Office Counters, has been working with Commodore, the computerised booking agency, to set up the Trafalgar Square trial. In time, branches may end up offering a full holiday advice service.

The spokesman said: "We will be selling tickets for all the major airlines who have spare seats on their aircraft."

He added: "In common with other similar services, we cannot guarantee that customers will be able to get the exact flight they request, but we will try to obtain the closest possible alternative. It is too early to say how many more branches will be offering this service after the six-month trial but we are confident that it will prove popular."

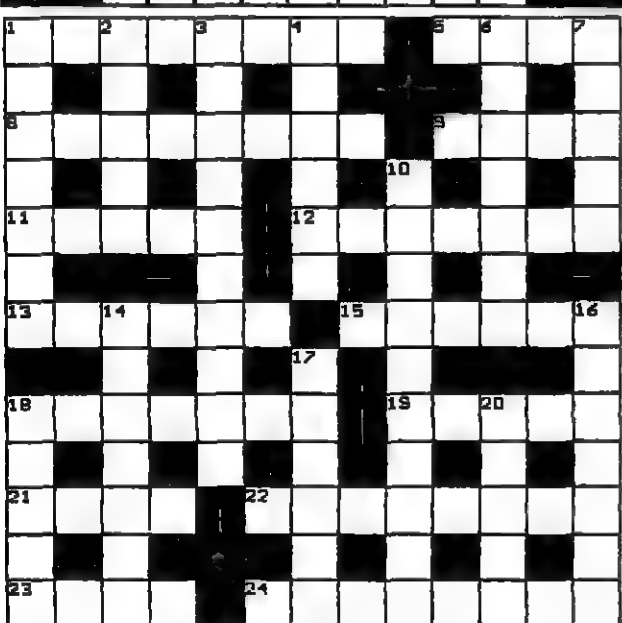
The Post Office's plans are part of a deal to allow a wider range of services after the Government decided to abandon the privatisation of Royal Mail.

Leading article, page 15



Backpackers at the new Trafalgar Square travel centre

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 750

ACROSS

- 1 Wicked act of violence (8)
- 5 Metrical units; imperial units (4)
- 8 Be successful (2,6)
- 9 Strain to look; equal (4)
- 11 Stay in bed longer (3,2)
- 12 Speak badly of (7)
- 13 A particular government (6)
- 15 Stand-in monarch (6)
- 18 Thrower (7)
- 19 Of the eye (5)
- 21 Gem; Jack —, killed Lee H. Oswald (4)
- 22 Stone-throwing device (8)
- 23 Appearance, manner (4)
- 24 Improvident (8)

DOWN

- 1 Bony; awkward (7)
- 2 Indian money (5)
- 3 Puff away non-stop (5-5)
- 4 Top-of-dartboard number (6)
- 6 Carry out (7)
- 7 Bottom-of-dartboard number (5)
- 10 Dress down (4,2,4)
- 14 Mutter complaints (7)
- 16 Roman historian, notably brief (7)
- 17 Suave, polished (6)
- 18 Personal-computer memory disc (2-3)
- 20 Suspension of hostilities (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 749

ACROSS: 2 Blessing 6 Become 8 Draper 9 Develop 10 Natal 12 Sarcophagi 16 Murphy's Law 18 Haven 20 Pro rata 21 Tongan 22 Supine 23 Pump Room

DOWN: 1 General 2 Below par 3 Spring 4 Input 5 Girdle 7 Overcome 11 Airstrip 13 Aphorism 14 Halting 15 Shut up 17 Unfair 19 Venom

SOLUTION TO EASTER HOLIDAY JUMBO CONTEST

ACROSS: 1 Went like a lamb to the slaughter 15 Out of pocket 16 Notably 17 Posting 18 Panel game 19 Amphetamine 20 Argus 21 Croesus 23 Externally 24 Dinosaur 27 Euro 28 Compassing 30 Connoisseur 33 Mistakeable 35 Terrace 36 Deprive 38 Opera 39 Laryngitis 41 Pre-release 43 Tridentine 46 Upstanding 48 Cobra 51 Baptism 52 Tea leaf 54 Regulatory 56 Short weight 57 Street door 59 Peso 61 Exemplar 63 Monotonous 65 Shorten 67 Zebra 69 Educational 70 Ephemeris 72 Dormant 73 Brittle 74 Quadrant 75 Three blind mice, see how they run

DOWN: 1 Woodpecker 2 Not on your life 3 Lifeless 4 Krons 5 Ankle-deep 6 Attract 7 Bonapartist 8 On the danger list 9 Hydraulic ram 10 Styrmie 11 Apple-pie order 12 Gestapo 13 Thing 14 Registrar General 22 Snorkel 25 America 26 Unwearying 29 Sterne 31 Supplicate 32 Strategist 34 Baronetage 37 Not to be sneezed at 40 Impressionistic 42 Untrue 44 Improve 45 Temperamental 47 Gallows 49 Border terrier 50 Factionalism 53 Forlornness 55 Cornishman 58 Desperado 60 Commence 62 Placate 64 Oblique 66 Durban 68 Barrer 71 Hierat



Peter Robinson, the deposed chief executive of the Woolwich, yesterday after returning to his Kent home

Ousted society chief back home

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

PETER ROBINSON, the deposed chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, has come out of hiding and returned to his home in Brasted, Kent.

He continues to deny allegations of abuse of company facilities but is unlikely to make a more detailed defence until he has studied an external report into the allegations ordered by the Woolwich board. KPMG, the accountancy firm, and Linklaters & Paines, the law firm, are expected to deliver their confidential report in two weeks.

The allegations have included the use of building society gardeners, electricians and decorators for work at his luxury home. The Woolwich board said there had been a complete breakdown of confidence in Mr Robinson.

Yesterday the Woolwich sought to quash speculation that it is in merger talks aimed at strengthening its position after Mr Robinson's dismissal.

The society denied a report that it was about to enter into negotiations with Birmingham

Midshires and dismissed rumours that it was attempting to hire Mike Jackson, the widely respected chief executive of Midshires, to take Mr Robinson's job.

Mr Jackson said yesterday: "I have not had any talks with the Woolwich about mergers or the chief executive vacancy."

The leading internal candidate is John Stewart, opera-

tions director, who has led the society's business diversification, including setting up its telephone banking arm.

The Woolwich said it intended to proceed with its conversion plans and indicated that any merger or acquisition activity would follow the flotation, scheduled for next summer.

Speaking from his £450,000 home yesterday, Mr Robinson said: "I have spent the last

couple of days staying with friends in the area on the advice of my solicitor."

"I'm not really able to comment on any allegations made against me because I have not seen anything in writing and it is only then that I will consider any response. But, meanwhile, I would like to say I deprecate this smear campaign which is going on against me."

Rentokil set to raise BET bid

By CARL MORTSHED

RENTOKIL is expected to top up its bid for BET this week with a 10p sweetener aimed at swaying loyal shareholders away from the services group headed by John Clark.

Rentokil has until Friday to raise its offer but the market is expecting only a small increase from the pest control and security services group headed by Clive Thompson.

Rentokil's mixed share and cash offer values a BET share at 206p, a penny less than the

closing price last Thursday. BET has mounted a robust defence but its efforts have failed to capture the imagination of investors.

However, last week the bid battle came alive with a complaint to the Takeover Panel by BET, who alleged that market rumours that BET was under pressure from its major shareholders to enter into merger talks had been instigated by the Rentokil camp.

Rentokil denies it is the source

of the rumours but the Takeover Panel is believed to be conducting inquiries.

Earlier in the week, Rentokil ridiculed a revised £146 million profit estimate from BET, which followed a forecast of £142 million, issued a fortnight earlier.

Rentokil may wait until the last minute to announce its increase in the hope that sales from nervous BET shareholders may depress the share price.

Head of Cookson gets £1.7m pay package

By MARTIN BARROW

RICHARD OSTER, head of Cookson, the electronic materials and ceramics group, became one of the UK's best-paid chief executives last year when he earned a total of £1.73 million. Total remuneration, which compared with earnings of £1.35 million in the previous 12 months, included a basic salary of £581,032 and bonuses of £1,149,221.

The annual report also shows another two directors received substantial pay increases. Donald Carciari and Stephen Howard, who act as joint group managing directors, were paid £934,628 and £898,597 respectively, compared with £674,860 and £662,714 in the previous 12 months.

During the year when the company achieved a 50 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional items to £181.5 million, the company paid a

total of £4.93 million to its directors, a sharp increase from £3.5 million in the previous year. In addition, Cookson contributed £981,260 to their pensions. Mr Oster also received 416,468 share options during the year, with a market



Oster: share options

value of £104,000. The average exercise price is 281p, compared with a current price of 310p. At the year-end Mr Oster held options on shares with a total market value of £3.3 million.

Mr Oster and the joint managing directors, who are all US citizens, are on three-year rolling contracts, an arrangement that has attracted criticism during the current debate on corporate governance. However, the company says it is "not in the best interests of shareholders" to seek to renegotiate the notice periods.

Last year Ray Sharpe, vice-president of Cookson America, received \$479,520 in compensation for the cancellation of a third year of notice which was provided in his contract before he became a director.

Wall Street braced for delayed shock

US job figures to hit shares

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WALL STREET is today braced for significant initial losses as the American stock market has its first chance to react to Friday's stronger than expected employment figures for March.

The figures, which showed that 140,000 jobs had been created outside the farm sector last month, appeared to confirm that the American economic recovery is alive and well and that there is no need for further interest rate cuts.

Although continuing health

in economic growth should be positive for corporate profits and the stock market, Wall Street is still likely to react to the fallout in the US Treasury bond market on Friday, when the benchmark long bond fell by nearly two percentage points, taking its yield to 6.84 per cent from 6.66 per cent at Thursday's close.

The New York Stock Exchange, which was closed on Friday, reopens today, but British markets will not be able to react to developments in the US until traders return to work tomorrow.

The 140,000 gain in non-

farm payrolls added to a revised increase of 624,000 in February. The February figure was revised down from the 705,000 rise originally reported, which sent American stocks and bonds into a tailspin.

□ The latest Merrill Lynch Gallup survey of British fund managers showed that 85 per cent of those surveyed expect an improvement in Britain's general economic situation over the coming year. Some 61 per cent expect inflation to be higher in a year's time, with 39 per cent expecting base rates to be rising in a year.

Apax offer considered by Signet

Signet is believed to be considering an offer by Apax Partners, the venture capital group, to acquire its H Samuel and Ernest Jones retail jewellery chains for about £300 million. The Apax plan is to merge both chains with Goldsmiths, the stock market listed jewellery group.

Goldsmiths, capitalised at about £63 million, has made a separate offer to acquire Signet's UK businesses, but would be ready to consider its involvement in another bid.

The combined group would have a market share of about 22 per cent.

Other bidders are believed to include Gerald Ratner, who established Signet in the 1980s under the Ratners name.

Opec tour

Amar Makhlouf, president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and Rihwan Lukman, the secretary-general, arrive in Saudi Arabia today, as part of a tour of Gulf Opec states seeking support for a new quota system for Opec and to prepare for Iraq's eventual return to the world oil market. Iraqi and United Nations officials are due to hold further talks in New York today on a limited oil-for-food sales plan.

BCCI appeal

Lawyers for former officials of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which collapsed in 1991, yesterday began closing arguments in an appeal in Abu Dhabi against jail terms and civil damages of about \$9 billion. Defence lawyers appealed against the 1994 sentences while prosecutors are appealing against a single not guilty verdict.

N&P vote

The future of the National & Provincial Building Society will be sealed on Thursday when its members meet at the Nynex arena, Manchester, to vote on the £1.35 billion takeover bid by Abbey National. Of the 1.4 million savers and borrowers entitled to vote, most have already done so by post.

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MUSICALS

Broadway star Mandy Patinkin makes his British stage debut performing show tunes at the Almeida

Almeida Theatre, London W.C.2

CABARET

Mulling it over

Denny Laine

Cafe Royal



BOOKS

John Bejeman's writings on the Church are published in a new edition illustrated by Paul Hogarth

IN THE SHOPS: Now

REVIEW: Thursday



FILM

More wit and wisdom as life meets art in Woody Allen's latest snappy comedy, *Mighty Aphrodite*

OPENS: Friday

REVIEW: Thursday



MUSIC

The South Bank begins a massive month-long celebration of a giant of avant-gardism, Harrison Birtwistle

OPENS: Friday

REVIEW: Monday



POP

From 10,000 Maniacs to solo stardom: Natalie Merchant brings her alternative rock to Shepherds Bush

GIG: Saturday

REVIEW: Next week

ARTS

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

IN SECTION 2

TELEVISION: Andy Lavender on final editing of the great controversialist's last two surreal dramas

Dennis Potter: the parting shots

It is already billed as one of the most significant events in modern television drama. *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus* were the last works to be written by Dennis Potter, one of Britain's most original television dramatists, who completed them after being told that he had cancer and had only three months to live. With a gallows grin, he persuaded BBC1 and Channel 4 to collaborate on the serials, which will be transmitted on both channels later this spring in an unprecedented display of respect.

Potter's final works, written through pain and against the clock, may prove to be his most impressive. The director, Renny Rye, will come in for his share of praise or condemnation — not least because Potter stipulated that he should be given the job after directing the writer's *Lipstick on Your Collar* and *Midnight Movie*. So will Albert Finney, who plays the central character, Daniel Feeld, in both serials. But let us turn to the other, hidden hands currently shaping the destiny of both dramas.

Amid the fluster of commentary, nobody will mention Clare Douglas. This will not be unusual — after all, how many film editors' names can you drop? Nonetheless, it will be an oversight of some proportion.

Even a dramatist as good as Dennis Potter needs someone to join all the bits together. Film editors are like the girders in a building: invisible but indispensable. Without girders, you have a mass of bricks and timber. Without editors, you just have reels of film. Every drama that you watch, whether on television or in the cinema, has been comprehensively edited. Every time there is a cut from one shot to another, an editor's hand has made the decision.

Editors are the secret conductors of a drama. They shape its movements and its flow. Our responses are guided, too, by the editing: by the sheer streamlining of fast-cutting from one shot to another, or by the soothing, full, of a cross-fade between two images.

"I went to the cinema once with some friends, who came out feeling uncomfortable with the film without knowing why," says Douglas. "I could see that it was because it had been badly edited."

Douglas trained as a film editor with the BBC and still prefers her traditional blade and adhesive tape to the buttons of modern digital technology. She first met Potter when she edited his complex and apparently disjointed four-part serial *Blackeyes*. She went freelance to work on Potter's subsequent dramas and is just putting the



Posthumous Potter with a sci-fi touch: Carmen Ejogu, Ganiat Kasumu, Ciaran Hinds and Frances de la Tour in a scene from *Cold Lazarus*, which begins in May

“The central character's head has been frozen and a group of scientists manages to thaw out his memories”

finishing touches to *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*.

Karaoke is set in 1994, the year of Potter's death. Its central character is a writer who is at the post-production stage with a film he has scripted. The resonances are layer upon layer — Daniel Feeld has been told that he has terminal cancer, his film is about a writer.

Cold Lazarus is set 374 years later. Feeld's head has been frozen and a group of scientists succeeds in thawing out his memories. The two dramas form a devilishly quick-witted double about creativity, memory and the exploitation of people's ideas.

The scientists in *Cold Lazarus* watch Feeld's memories emerge on an extraordinary screen of images that swirl and undulate as if they were reflected on water. "Dennis talked about a living wall, about blobs metamorphosing into shapes," says Renny Rye. This effect is built through three shots

melded together by the Computer Film Company.

It seems reassuringly human that such wizardry then returns to a humdrum room with formica desks and grubby white walls at the nondescript Twickenham Film Studios. Mark Gravil is responsible for all the effects editing. He works at a stubby metallic affair with three spools going in at one side and emerging from the other, surrounded by a small screen called a Compektor. Gravil shows me a remarkable shot that he has just edited into the programme: the camera tracks round the scientists

towards the "living wall" and passes into the "memory" like Alice going through the looking glass. "Better than *Doctor Who*," says Gravil.

So much for the fancy stuff. But editors also give shape to the more ordinary sequences — and even here, theirs is a peculiarly subtle art. Clare Douglas shows me a sequence in which one of the scientists, played by Ciaran Hinds, arrives late for the memory-screening. He has been involved in a murder. Earlier in the scene there

has been a cutaway shot to one of the scientists standing towards the back of the laboratory.

"At this stage there is a feeling that she may be a government spy," says Douglas, "so we are starting to make her appear isolated from the others."

The possible spy asks a question of Hinds. As he replies, the image instead shows his colleague, played by Frances de la Tour, observing anxiously. "I realised that this expression was more interesting," says Douglas.

You are looking for all those little reactions between people. With Dennis's writing, there is so much in the scripts that you start thinking about the various layers of meaning and how you might bring them out. A lot of it is instinct: your reaction to the nature of what you are seeing.

Film editors are connoisseurs of nuance. The best of them combine scrupulous precision with powerful

intuition. "You put the shots together and something else comes out of it which you can't explain," says Douglas. "It is feeling the rhythms of the pictures themselves and of people's dialogue. There are different rhythms, and in the end you want a rhythm for the pictures that goes up and down and varies, just as speech does."

Potter adored the cutting room, says Rye. He would come in, metaphorically throw the film into the air and reassemble it.

Mindful of the writer's eagle-eyed ghost, the team working on *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus* are not quite so cavalier. Nonetheless, when the press is awash with talk of Potter, Finney and Rye, remember that there are other fingerprints, too, on the film.

Karaoke begins on BBC1 on Sunday, April 28, repeated on Mondays on Channel 4. *Cold Lazarus* begins on Sunday, May 26 on Channel 4, repeated on Mondays on BBC1.

THEATRE

From bad to worse

PROBABLY the worst movie director known to man, Ed Wood has posthumously become a star. Hollywood even made the poor guy's life into a film last year. Now, on tour around the country is a spoof stage musical of his most prized flop. In case you have forgotten, *Plan 9 From Outer Space* is the risible horror movie, cobbled together in 1956, in which grave-robbing aliens buzz Earth in what look suspiciously like flying hub-caps and the zombie dead rise from, surely, a garden shed.

This musical, by David G. Smith (plus some dinkering from the British production team), is pre-

Plan 9 From Outer Space
Queen's, Hornchurch

sumably hoping to land in the West End eventually. The cast includes Peter Straker as the commander of the invaders, here a glittering transvestite (with a glance at Wood's own wardrobe). Straker certainly shines in his sequins and stiletos. Adele Anderson, of Fascinating Aida, is in fine voice as Vampira, hitting alarmingly deep notes then rocketing to high walls. She looks fittingly wicked in her plunging black dress but does not seem relaxed in the role. This may be because co-directors Marina Calderone and Richard Hanson often seem almost as clueless about their art as dear old Wood.

The opening format suggests a cloning of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Criswell, our mock-spooky narrator, intones (not very wittily) in black tie. Cue, the squeaky-clean 1950s couple, Paula and Jeff, caught up in a lightning storm with dracs and cross-dressers round the corner. Meanwhile, the songs often merely plunder other people's tunes in the name of pastiche. There is welcome variety — Berlin cabaret, country and western, whatever — but the lyrics are cheap. The catchiest numbers are narratively irrelevant.

There are certainly amusing moments when the show is knowingly clumsy. Criswell's revolving booth subjects him to unwanted jerks. A mention of aliens from "up there" is punctuated by everyone suddenly gawking at the ceiling. Frequently though, this live show is just uncomfortably technically iffy in its own right. Cast as our trusty Jeff, Luke Goss (formerly of Bros) just stands around with his legs apart looking stiffly self-conscious when he is meant to be sending up the original something rotten.

KATE BASSETT

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

MOZART'S SYMPHONY NO 29
Reviewed by Richard Osborne

With its beguiling mix of sense and sensibility, Mozart's Symphony No 29 is his first undisputed symphonic masterpiece. He was 18 when he completed it in Salzburg in 1774. Scored for oboes, horns and strings, the symphony has the bloom of youth on it and yet it is also superbly crafted, written with a naivety and intensity that points forward to the later symphonies.

Early LP recordings have not worn well. Many are too slow, several are poorly played, others have been wretchedly transferred to CD. Some of the period-instrument recordings from the early 1980s also sound rather dated now, with husky string tone and the pedantic use of a clattery harpsichord continuo that is quite alien to the sound of this symphony.

The best of the older recordings is Guido Cantelli's 1955 HMV version with the Philharmonia Orchestra. It is a gem of a performance, by turns gracious and urbane, trenchant and intense. The recording is excellent, and in stereo, part of a two-CD budget-price set in EMI's *Artist Profile* series (EMI CZS 5 8217-2).

Benjamin Britten's searching and stylish 1971 Decca recording with the English Chamber Orchestra also comes in a two-CD set. There is a certain brooding Romanti-



cism about Britten's later Mozart recordings, especially in the slow movements, which will alienate self-styled "authenticists"; but it is difficult to imagine a Mozart collection that would not be enriched by these records. This budget-price, Double Decca set (444 323-2) (£14.95), also includes Mozart's two G minor symphonies and his *Prague Symphony*.

Finding a recommendable budget-price version on a single CD is more difficult; but Jean-Pierre Rampal's recording with the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra on Harmonia Mundi (HMP 390303) is first-rate, a very gallant performance, garne and expressive in the Beecham style. But the best of the single CDs is undoubtedly Sir Charles Mackerras's with the Prague Chamber Orchestra on a well-filled, full-price Telarc CD which also includes Symphonies 25 and 28 (CD 80165). Musically, Mackerras gives us everything we could possibly want: all the repeats, divided fiddles, the merest hint of harpsichord continuo and, above all, real affection, real drama.

• To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barby Road, London W10 6BL or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk
• Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Barber's Knoxville



Boulez: meticulous and supple signals

Vernon Handley has a deserved reputation for getting to the heart of Romantic music, and as associate conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra he earned accolade from his players as well as the audience after an uncommonly assured performance of Rachmaninov's Second Symphony on Thursday night. The music wears its heart on its sleeve, no doubt, but on this occasion the conductor was not so much in pursuit of its essential Russian soul as concerned with the nature of its Russian emotional drama.

In a relatively short programme of about 80 minutes of music overall, he might have allowed us the extra five or six minutes it takes to repeat the exposition of subject-matter in the first movement, and so point more strongly the sense of epic scale, but perhaps Handley was reluctant to labour its content. Instead he expressed its strength of purpose in the relationship of melodic character to harmonic direction.

CONCERTS: The 1950s revisited; assured Rachmaninov

Omens, signs and wonders

The Purcell Room was packed with many a grey-haired music-lover on Wednesday night for a trip down memory lane. The South Bank's 1950s festival focused on two classics by Pierre Boulez and Hans Werner Henze, and with a comet up above and a lunar eclipse about to take place, it seemed a properly auspicious evening for the event.

The London Sinfonietta's choice of *Le marteau sans maître* (1952-54) and *Kammermusik 1958* was vindicated in performances of revelatory clarity and intensity. Here were two "settings" of poetry for voice and chamber ensemble, born of the rigorous study and application of serialism, yet as different from each other as can be imagined.

Boulez "sets" the allusive, surreal poetry of René Char: Henze the discursive philosophising of Friedrich Hölder-

ling. Boulez creates a maze of reference between instrumental preludes, interludes and song as three poems twist through their "settings" and their instrumental commentaries. Henze is content with what is basically a conventional song-cycle format: a dozen settings interspersed with solo instrumental and ensemble interludes. But here, too, there is cross-reference, verbal and musical, though more for the ear than the mind.

Boulez, in his meticulously selected and supple signals for a group of instruments restricted in register (alto flute, viola, guitar, vibraphone, plus xylophone and violin) creates a chaste abstraction of response, throwing into relief

the passionate utterances of the human voice. Fiona Kimm was a powerful wordsmith — until the words began to crack and break under the burden, and the voice drifts into vocalise before surrendering to the breath of the flute and the brush of a cymbal.

In Henze, the word holds fast. Now sturdily, in forceful declamation, now in sensuous, Italianate melisma, the tenor of John Graham-Hall relished each thought and image, with solo guitar (Steven Smith) and an octet of string and wind players amplifying expression and focusing attention. In his programme note, Henze, old romantic that he is, shamelessly even uses the word "depict" to describe the activity of the midway instrumental "Sonata". Markus Stenz conducted both works with lucidity, passion and a true sense of élan.

HILARY FINCH

Directing a Russian drama

RPO/Handley
Albert Hall

In the muscular vivacity of the following Scherzo movement, and an Adagio that restored self-respect to the kind of music that was hijacked by an entire generation of Hollywood composers for its sentiment alone, this performance drew on a high degree of instrumental accomplishment. Pru Whittaker's first clarinet earned her a separate call at the

end, perhaps also as a token for the eloquent contributions from fellow players around her.

Not the least of Handley's skill was in securing a consistent balance of texture and colour, as he also did previously in relation to the solo playing of Steven Isserlis in Elgar's Cello Concerto, which bids fair to survive its status as a musical icon of our time. Isserlis was an unusually reticent soloist by comparison with some others' approach to this work but he lacked nothing in dignity of feeling.

At times in the middle movements, including the haunting Adagio, he seemed so withdrawn as to diminish the work's central focus in the solo writing, but it generated a poignancy of spirit that left the listener in its debt for the beauty of phrase with which Elgar subsumed his sorrow as well as his affection for all that meant most to him.

NOEL GOODWIN

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The solving of a famous conundrum will lead to new challenges, says Marcus du Sautoy

Is this solution the end of maths?

My lady, take Fermat into the music room. There will be an extra spoonful of jam if you find his proof. Tom Stoppard in his play *Arcadia* is just one of many who have helped to immortalise Fermat's Last Theorem as the Greatest Unsolved Problem of Mathematics.

But last month in Jerusalem, it was Andrew Wiles, and not *Arcadia*'s Thomasina, who was claiming that spoonful of jam. His solution of Fermat's Last Theorem was rewarded in the Knesset (Israel's parliament) with one of mathematics' highest accolades, the Wolf prize worth £66,000, which he shares with his colleague at Princeton, Robert Langlands.

Fermat conjectured that, if n is a number bigger than 2, you will never be able to find three whole numbers such that the n th power of the first is the sum of the n th powers of the other two. Or, for those with a head for equations, that $x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no solution where x , y and z are whole numbers.

Wiles explains the appeal of Fermat's problem: "Here was a problem that I, a ten-year-old, could understand, but none of the great mathematicians had been able to resolve. From that moment I tried to solve it myself."

The legendary status of the problem comes, though, from Fermat's tantalising marginal note, probably the biggest provocation in the history of mathematics. "I have a wonderful proof of this fact which the margin is too small to contain."

Centuries of searching for Fermat's proof unearthed quantities of mathematical treasures but Fermat's gem remained hidden. Perhaps *Arcadia*'s Thomasina was right: "The note in the margin is a joke to make you all mad." With time it became something of a sideline. That is until the mid-Eighties when it became inextricably linked with a much more modish part of mathematics — elliptic curves.



Emma Fielding, as Tom Stoppard's Thomasina

Ken Ribet, of the University of Berkeley, showed that Fermat would follow from a conjecture about elliptic curves named after two Japanese mathematicians, Taniyama and Shimura. It was armed with this information that Wiles dedicated seven years to settling enough of Taniyama-Shimura to yield

'No other problem will ever be the same to me'

his childhood dream of proving Fermat.

But with its solution, have we lost the magic that this puzzle has generated over the centuries? Could anything possibly replace Fermat's Last Theorem as mathematics' holy grail? Most people believe that mathematical research is long division to a lot of decimal places. With the advent of the

computer, surely mathematics must have all been worked out by now. So is that the end of mathematics?

This perception of mathematics could not be further from the truth. The subject is full of open problems, some of which are much older than Fermat, others which are very new. While Wiles is being honoured for the end of a story, his fellow prizewinner, Robert Langlands, is being rewarded for an inspired new problem. In mathematics, this sort of vision is often more important than proof.

The Langlands Programme, as his vision is called, proposes to unify two seemingly different areas of mathematics — arithmetic and symmetry. It provides some sort of dictionary, translating one into another.

The Taniyama-Shimura conjecture, which Wiles partially proved, is itself just a small part of this programme. His vision is so deep that a proof will probably not be seen in our lifetime and will certainly be a worthy successor to Fermat for stimulating new ideas and research.

But the problem most mathematicians would trade their soul with Mephistopheles for

a proof has to be the Riemann Hypothesis. It is a far greater goal for mathematics than Fermat. Even if Mephistopheles was to provide an unimpeachable proof, the understanding that Riemann's conjecture would give us about prime numbers is immense.

The famous Cambridge mathematician G.H. Hardy almost provided the Riemann Hypothesis with a story to equal Fermat's cryptic note in the margin. On a rough sea crossing, fearing for his life, he sent a joke telegram saying he had found a wonderful proof. The ship, however, did not sink.

Although mathematicians are quite happy to explain Fermat at a dinner party, the Riemann hypothesis is a little

bit more indigestible. Here, though, for those with a strong stomach, is a flavour of what it says. The prime numbers are the indivisible building blocks of all numbers, yet their properties remain deeply mysterious. Two thousand years ago Euclid showed there were infinitely many primes.

This year we celebrate a hundred years of knowing what proportion of all numbers are prime numbers. But if you look at a list of primes there really seems to be no nice pattern. It all looks like random noise.

Around 1740, Euler identified a function (now called the Riemann zeta function) which allowed you to understand all

prime numbers in one go. A function is like a computer — you feed a number in, it calculates away and gives you a number out.

Those numbers which output zero are in some sense the harmonics of this function. It is these harmonics which tell you all about prime numbers. Riemann conjectured what these harmonics look like. If true, it could imply that the music of the primes is far from being just noise.

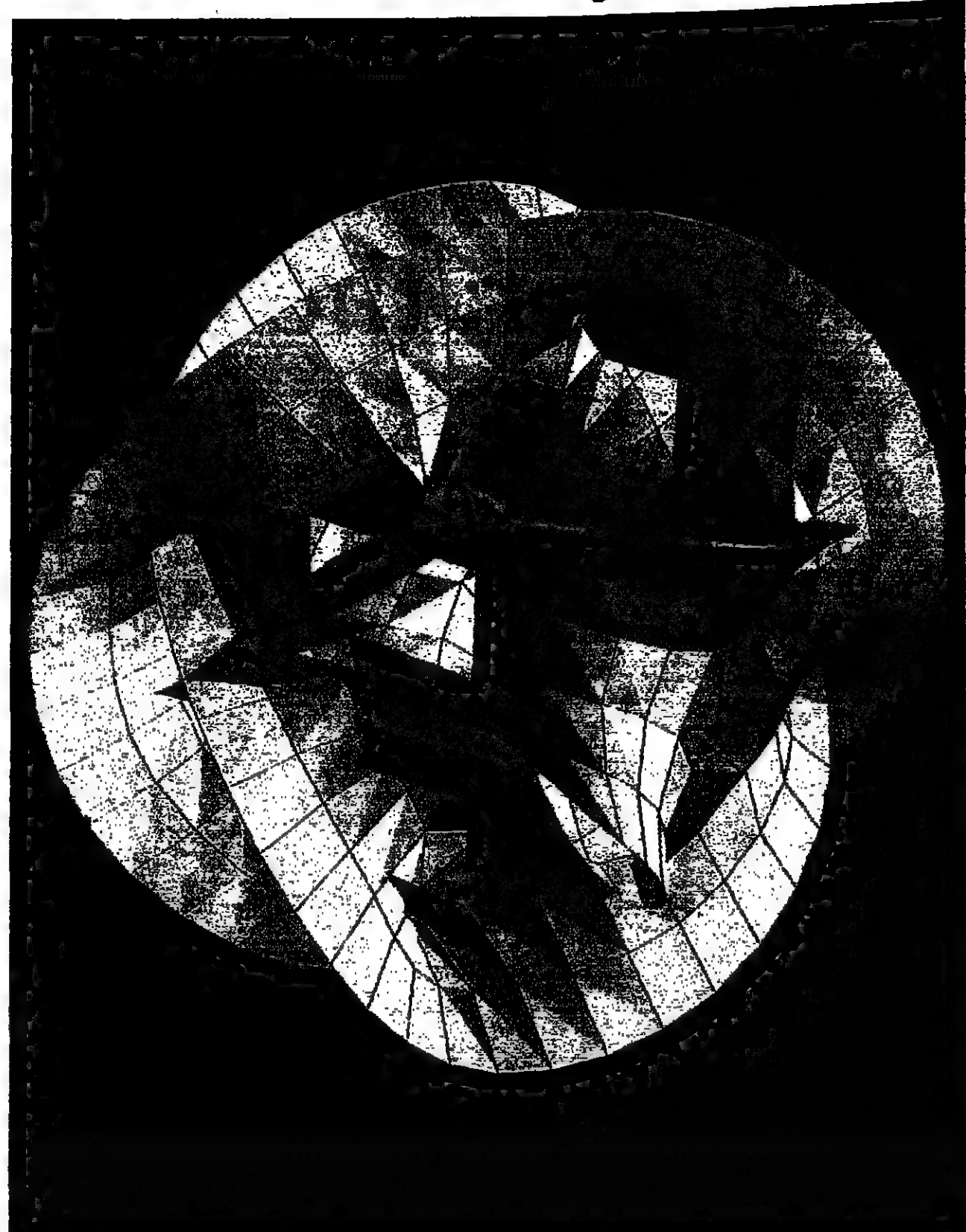
But both Langlands Programme and the Riemann Hypothesis are far too complicated ever to capture the public imagination as mathematics' new Great Unsolved Problem. Perhaps as the solver of Fermat it is up to Andrew Wiles to throw down the

gaunt let for the next generation.

"There's no other problem that will mean the same to me," he says. But Wiles does suggest as a candidate perhaps the oldest unsolved problem in mathematics, the so-called Problem of Congruent Numbers. It is simple to state and a child can start playing round with ideas. Yet it relates to deep questions of arithmetic and has resisted centuries of attack.

Perhaps a snappier name and some cryptic marginal notes by the likes of Andrew Wiles and it could find its way into the public imagination.

Dr Marcus du Sautoy is a Royal Society University Research Fellow at the Department of Pure Mathematics in Cambridge.



A three-dimensional solution to Fermat's Last Theorem: the Riemann Hypothesis is the next great problem

Artists from the depths

Anjana Ahuja on early man's sunken studio

THE Cosquer cave was discovered by Henri Cosquer, a deep-sea diver, in 1985 at the foot of a cliff at Cape Morgiou, near Marseilles. News of the magnificent collection of prehistoric art it contained spread quickly, drawing widespread media attention around the world.

Jean Clottes and Jean Courtin, two archaeologists who studied the cave in subsequent diving missions, have just published a complete record of what they found (*The Cave Beneath the Sea*, Abrams, £45). Looking beyond the beautiful pictures, the book is a tale of exploration, mistrust and controversy. Several experts claimed the cave was a fake, angering the elite assembled to investigate it. The dangers of exploring undersea caverns provided an added, grim allure — three divers died trying to find it.

THE engravings and paintings inside it include eerie images of stencilled human hands. Animals also feature heavily, including horses, ibex (wild goat) and chamois (goat antelope), and there are unusual depictions of sea creatures such as seal, fish and jellyfish. The animals are patterned with rectangles, zigzags and spirals.

The artists executed their handiwork in two distinct eras, 27,000 years ago and 18,500 years ago, according to dating carried out using charcoal found lying on the cave floor.

The 490-ft entrance to the palaeolithic (early Stone Age) cave became submerged at the end of the last Ice Age, 12,000 years ago, preserving what seems to have been a primitive studio and ceremonial site rather than a place to live.

Divers also found the remains of burnt logs, which were probably used to illuminate the cave while the prehistoric artists worked.

When information should be open to all □ Danger beneath our feet □ Light on the way birds see

Why Britain is losing the great gene race

THE gene-sequencers ought to be enjoying themselves. After years of promising great results, they are beginning to deliver. The complete genetic sequence of baker's yeast, listing every DNA base, has just been completed, by a team at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. But they have announced that the final fifth of the sequence will not be made public until the end of this month.

They feel that having done the work, they ought to have at least the first chance of exploiting it. But the world's two big sequencing laboratories, Britain's Sanger Centre in Cambridge and Washington University in St Louis, take the opposite view. They argue that sequence data is basic information that should be published as soon as it is available, so that everybody can have an equal chance of taking advantage of it.

The policy is questioned in *Nature* by a team from the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, who show that Japanese and American companies have been much quicker to exploit

this information than British or European ones.

Of the 1.75 patents so far granted for human DNA sequences, most are owned by Japanese or American companies, report Dr Sandy Thomas and colleagues. More than 70 per cent of the human gene patents issued by the European Patent Office are in Japanese or American hands.

Dr Thomas says that Britain's policy of open access means that the country could lose out, as it has in the past. She cites the case of the breast cancer gene BRCA2, now the subject of a patent battle between the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey, and the American company Myriad Genetics, of Salt Lake City.

Both are claiming to have

been first to identify a use for the gene, which gives women who carry it a far greater risk of getting breast cancer. Myriad Genetics filed its patent for the gene after the DNA sequence was put on the Internet by the Sanger Centre.

Though Myriad has denied that it was this data which put it on the Internet, it could certainly have been helpful. The irony is that the DNA came originally from the Institute of Cancer Research. This means that material from one British laboratory,



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

sequenced at another, could have provided a distant company with a valuable patent.

"It raises interesting questions," says Dr Thomas. She says the Government's policy of wealth creation through basic science "sits uncomfortably" with the fact that an American company is able to file for a patent through publicly funded research in Britain.

Dr Richard Wooster, of the Sutton team, believes that the Sanger data was helpful to everybody. "Myriad got an

advantage, but so did we," he says.

The Sutton team identified a length of DNA containing about a million "bases" within which the BRCA2 gene lay. But to get any closer they needed the full sequence of the bases, which the Sanger Centre was better equipped to obtain. "It would take them a couple of months, while it might have taken us a year," says Dr Wooster.

Once the complete sequence was available on the Internet, it was easier for both the Sutton and the Myriad groups to identify the 10,000 or so bases that make up the gene, and to devise a use for it to make it patentable. Possible uses include a screening test for women who carry the gene, and long-term therapeutic possibilities, both of which

are covered in the Myriad claim.

The open access policy is defended by Dr David Owen, of the Medical Research Council, which supports the Sanger Centre jointly with the Wellcome Trust.

"When it is just a gene sequence, the best place for it is in the public domain," he says. "The more people who know about it, the more likely it will be put to good use."

The Wellcome Trust recently organised a meeting in Bermuda to thrash out the issue. Participants agreed that fast data release is desirable, but not everybody believes that it is possible. Many expect that the Belgian approach will be followed by others, particularly in Germany. Japan is already very cagey with its data, Dr Thomas says.

The problem is, she says, that America has many more companies alert to the commercial opportunities of gene sequences. "Given that Britain and Europe have a weak position, it is vital that we develop better mechanisms to protect our interests."

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Radon belt discovered

A STUDY by the British Geological Survey has shown that houses far from the granite regions of the South West may suffer from high levels of radon, the radioactive gas that seeps up from the ground.

Measurements made by the National Radiological Protection Board have enabled the BGS team to identify another belt, running roughly from Lyme Bay to Hull, where

radon levels are high. The culprit is not granite, but carboniferous limestone, which is also found in Bristol and parts of Wales.

The limestone does not contain as much uranium — which decays to produce radon — as does granite, but it is more dispersed, so more radon reaches the atmosphere. Drawn up through the foundations of houses, it can reach levels that the NRPB believes increase the risks of cancer.

Dr Donald Appleton, of the BGS, says that the risk from limestone declines towards the North, as the amounts of shale increase. The risk also depends on what is deposited on top of the limestone.

Through a bird's eye

BIRDS are often wonderfully coloured, but to each other they may be more vivid still. In an ingenious series of experiments, a team from Bristol and Regensburg universities has shown that zebra finches use the ability to see in the ultraviolet when they are choosing mates.

They put a female in a square cage, surrounded on all four sides by cages containing males, each of which could

be shown to the female one at a time by moving baffles. Transparent filters controlled the wavelength of the light seen by the female, whose reaction was measured by how vigorously she hopped about when face to face with each of the males.

The result, reported in *Nature*, is that the ultraviolet light at wavelengths between 300 and 400 nanometres was indeed important, and probably contributed to the female's colour perception. Birds evidently do not see each other quite as we see them: maybe, suggest Dr Andrew Bennett and colleagues, ultraviolet is a special waveband used in avian signalling.

السلامة

Grand maternal instincts

As she approaches 90, Elizabeth Longford, who has 26 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, reflects on the pleasures of the extended family

MY FUTURE husband, then aged six, was present at a garden party given by his grandmother Lady Jersey in honour of Lord Kitchener. "And who are you, my little man?" asked the hero. Frank replied solemnly: "I am the grandson of Grandmama."

I have a feeling that grandparents are moving once more into the ascendant. This may be sheer conceit of course. But one is apt to feel on the map when one is grandparent to 12 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one step-grandson — excluded from the good relationship but by no means from the affections, five great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons, with two more great-grandchildren on the way.

This roll-call would have been nothing special in the Victorian age when grandmothers were the prop of countless households, both poor and rich. To the poor they were unpaid nannies and to the rich they became voluntary psychiatric consultants. Queen Victoria quarrelled furiously with her own mother, but when she died, Victoria felt that she was irreplaceable in her role of grandmother to the royal children: no one else could be relied on to show the same interest in every one of them. Victoria herself was widely admired as the "Grandmother of Europe".

Immediately after the Second World War, I wondered what future remained for the larger family with its outcasts — aunts, uncles, grandparents and great-grandparents. When our eighth child was born a letter arrived saying I was breeding like a rabbit and ought to know better. Mr Nasty raged about having to contribute as a bachelor taxpayer to my Family Allowance. Nor had myxomatosis yet arrived to cheer him up.

Half a century later a volume arrives in our bookshops which will put Mr Nasty in his place, and the family in its place, along with those guardians of hearth and home, the grandparents.

Dr Joan Gomez's *You and Your Grandchild* (Bloomsbury) is a miracle of comprehensiveness, compassion and wisdom, illustrated by plenti-

ful anecdotes. I thoroughly enjoyed this grandmotherly saga, even though in several ways it outstripped my experiences and in other ways has been outdistanced by them. To start with, Dr Gomez's typical grandmother is rural about 50 and seems to have only one or two grandchildren.

To me, being a great-grandmother means something less cosy and rather more dinosaurian than Dr Gomez's portrait. I am about to be 90, my eldest grandchild being 39 and my youngest great-grandchild, Stella, eight. That means they have a real acquaintance with extreme old age. I remember one of the three-year-old grandchildren asking, "Granny, why is your hand cracked?" If she had asked why my brain was cracked I would have understood. But then I realised that she had been examining my intricate web of wrinkles. So, a lecture followed on why Mum's hand is wrinkled, illustrated by the old and young bark of trees. Another three-year-old grandchild was much taken with my white hair, studying its texture and lightness. I think he hoped it would taste like candyfloss.

Blanche, when a four-year-old great-grandchild, and her sister Anilanta both took immense pleasure in the very name of "Great-Granny", and would always hail me in loud chorus with strong emphasis on the "great". Actually I came to suspect that Blanche thought great meant unutterably old — like Father William in *Alice*. As any rate, while "interviewing" her for a book about grandchildren, I asked her: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Blanche replied promptly: "I want to be a normal person." Surprised and highly amused, her mother and I assumed she must be echoing a grown-up phrase she had picked — but maybe she knew the meaning of "normal" all too well, especially in so far as it did not include the idea of extreme old age.

As for the now generally acclaimed magic that grandmothers of whatever age can work within the family, I heartily subscribe to its existence. For instance, our reminiscences can put their

problems in perspective; but we must not overdo the "I remember", since teenage grandchildren in particular want to talk about themselves, and rightly so. At a certain stage, the young need as many confidantes as they can get.

I must end with a delightful reversal of roles. In my ninetieth year it is my grandchildren who help me, instead of vice versa. "Granny, mind this step. Granny, I've done some shopping for you. Here are the jacket potatoes, soup, salad, smoked salmon (a special treat), grapes." After I tripped and fell on an uneven pavement, they all rallied round. And my grandson-in-law turned up to cook our dinner: chops in a celestial sauce eaten to the accompaniment of tales from Moscow. Who would not be an antique granny with such compensations?



Gathering of the clan: (back row, left to right) Orlando Fraser, Harry Pakenham, Richard Pakenham, Guy Pakenham; (middle row) Benjamin Fraser holding Eliza Fraser, Maria Pakenham, Rose Billington, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Flora Fraser, Eliza Chisholm; (front row) Hermione Pakenham holding Thomas Fraser, Blanche Fitzgerald, Stella Powell-Jones holding William Fraser, Ben Pakenham and Dominic Pakenham. Photograph by Chris Harris

THE grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Elizabeth Longford are united in praise of her qualities and proud of her treasured role in the life of their family. In our brief opinion poll, this is what they had to say about her:

Back row, left to right
Orlando Fraser: "Her goodness shines out. She's always interested in whatever you are doing. She's simply glorious and adorable."

Harry Pakenham: "The thing that's special about her is her enthusiasm for people and life. It seems more typical of someone who is nine rather than 90. I hope I am as lucky in love as grandpa."

Richard Pakenham: "She gives equal love to all her grandchildren, whether she sees them once a

WHY MY GRANDMOTHER IS SO SPECIAL

week or every few months. There's no favouritism. And, even now, she still takes the children up the road to get sweets."

Guy Pakenham: "I have never met someone so interested in other people. I am about to get married and my fiancée was much more interested in granny than I thought granny would be in her. It turned out to be the other way round!"

Middle row, left to right
Benjamin Fraser: "She represents a golden age of grannies. She is so young at heart, so exciting and energetic. She also gives a very good impression of being immortal. She can communicate with all her grandchildren."

Maria Pakenham: "She is not a traditional mums-and-dads granny — she's more interested in talking to you than knitting you jumpers. She is incredibly tolerant and witty, and encourages you whatever your talents are."

Rose Billington: "She has enormous energy and vibrancy, and amazing powers of concentration. She listens very carefully to what you say and always has an original and fascinating reply to hand. She doesn't just fling out comments left, right and centre."

Rebecca Fitzgerald: "She loves babies, adores children and spoils the tiniest things that only a besotted mother would notice. She is incredibly warm and celebratory,

and a thrilling person to talk to."

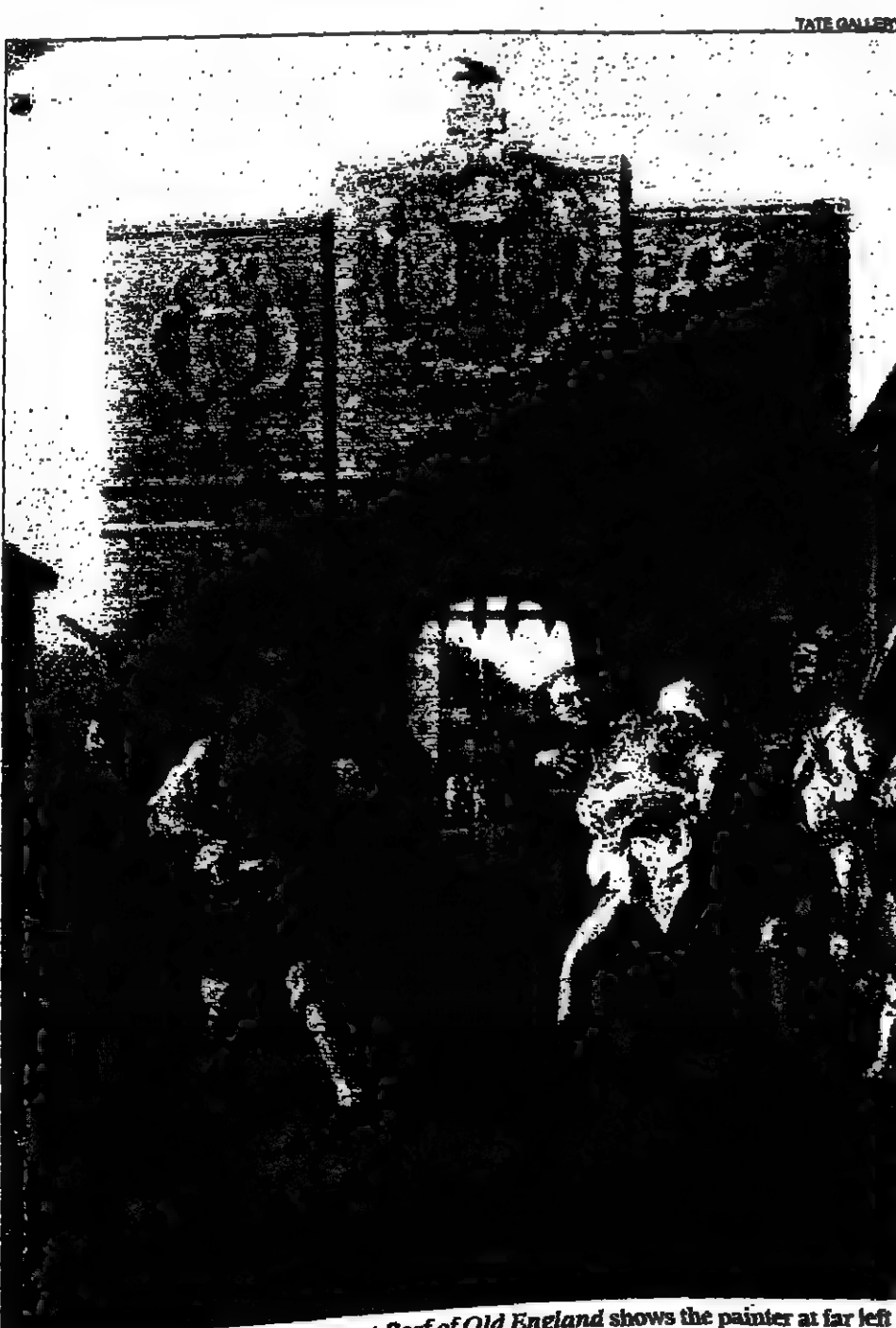
Flora Fraser: "She has a great enthusiasm for all her grandchildren's projects and a tremendous enthusiasm for all her descendants."

And the great-grandchildren...
Ben Pakenham (front row, second from right): "You can talk to her about any subject. She knows a lot about music which is good, because I play the trumpet. I think I am closer to her than my friends are to their grannies."

Hermione Pakenham (front row, far left): "Granny joins in a lot of my school activities, like my poetry evening recently. She's quite active for her age and I love being with her."

ANJANA AHUJA

Giles Coren pays a visit to the Tate and discovers that the continentals do not share Hogarth's sense of humour



Detail from Hogarth's *O the Roast Beef of Old England* shows the painter at far left

FORGET Cézanne. The cognoscenti at the Tate Gallery these days are hanging around a picture painted 90 years before Paul was even a glimmer in his father's eye. And it is an English picture, at that. William Hogarth's *O the Roast Beef of Old England* has been the talking-point of the casual art world since interest in our cattle was rekindled by the recent BSE panic. The Tate Gallery is laid out chronologically, and it is in room two, at the dawn of great English painting, that one encounters Hogarth and his revolutionary canvases, overpopulated, political and, above all, comical.

"Here is a great side of roast beef," says a tour guide, "used to symbolise English superiority over the French at the time of the Jacobite unrest. Look how the French chef buckles under the weight of it." She moves on to the next room to expound on Constable. But an elderly French gentleman loiters, suspicious, in the Hogarth enclosure.

"C'est pas du rosbif, ça," he says, scrutinising the meat. "C'est une côte de boeuf, bien sûr, mais c'est pas du rosbif."

HE IS bitter. For Hogarth, in the days before English beef lost its credibility, did not suffer Frenchies gladly. "Hogarth était... je sais pas le mot en français... euro-sceptic," supplies another young lady, a blue-hedge guide and student of art history at Birkbeck College.

She explains that in 1748 William Hogarth, while waiting for a ferry, decided to sketch the gate of Calais, which was emblazoned with English coats of arms, the port having been, until relatively recently, an English possession. But he was

When France went mad for British beef

arrested as a spy, on suspicion of making illegal sketches of the fortifications, and this painting was his revenge. He himself stands far left, with the hand of a gendarme tapping his shoulder.

The vast side of beef is on its way to an English pub, *Le Lion d'Argent*, to be consumed by the expatriates who stood for no fancy foreign rubbish in those glorious days of the Whig ascendancy.

While the English eat their magnificent beef, the poverty-stricken French can only oggle it. A failed monk clearly covets it, too, symbolising the hypocrisy and greed of the French clergy.

"But look at the people's faces," says a middle-aged German tourist called Mattheus Hauser. "They are clearly mad. They have all caught 'mad cow' disease, and the halberdier is telling

the beef smuggler to take his dirty meat back to England." Uproarious Tuxton laughter follows, but the guide has another theory.

"Hogarth hated foreigners," she explains. "He was trying to forge a path for a new English style, and anything foreign was anathema to him. There is a self-portrait in the National Gallery, which also shows his dog urinating on a collection of

foreign paintings. Here, the beef is integral to English supremacy."

"Je mange pas ça, moi," says an old Frenchman. And several Gallic heads shake their concurrence.

The guide is unruffled. "The French have always laughed at this picture," she says. "The meat is more fatty and marbled than the cuts of today, but that is probably because it predates intensive farming, and is the way our beef would be now if it were not for selective breeding and hormone injections. What makes them laugh is the idea, BSE or no BSE, that the French should be depicted as covetous of any English cuisine at all."

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Matthew Parris



The Catholic Church is losing its grip in Latin America, to a faith that encourages the individual — at last

From this vantage point, the whole of the eastern part of Lake Titicaca lies stretched out at my feet. The sky and the lake seem to meet, glowing blue. The place feels enchanted. I am sitting on the flat roof of the *Residencial of the Empire of the Sun*, a tiny boarding house at the top of this village, which nestles beneath the ridge of the Island of the Sun. We are 1,000ft above the lake.

The island is an anciently sacred to the culture of the Andes. Pre-Inca empires believed their deities were born here. The Inca civilisation, conquering them, cannily discovered that its deity, the Sun himself, had come to Earth here, bridging Heaven and Earth and, in human form, founding the dynasty of the Incas.

Then the *Conquistadors* of the Incas, the Spaniards, announced that a wood carving of the Virgin Mary, carved by an Indian craftsman, was divinely inspired. The Catholics founded a great church just across the water from the island, at a village called Copacabana to honour this image of Mary. Later it became the Patron of Bolivia.

Catholicism never challenged the subjugation of the individual to the many

Crowds flocked to Copacabana to pray for blessings, and Christen their cars and forlorn by the waters of the lake, to bring them luck on the roads.

Intercessions for blessings take the form of laying at a hilltop altar small replicas of the bounties for which the supplicant hopes. The ki-koos around the church sell Matchbox Mercedes, tiny model houses, and miniature American dollars to place there. The Catholic Church permits this, although it well knows that the ritual has roots in the pagan Indian custom of bringing miniatures to its own god of plenty.

But Catholicism in the Andes is fighting for its life. As a backtracking traveller, I blunder in apologetically to a subject which is doubtless much discussed in religious journals — and I shall surely err in some of my observations — but how many *Times* readers know that the Catholic Church may be dying on this continent, at least as the unchallenged force it has been for nearly four centuries?

Although this is Easter, there is little sign of religious observance on the Island of the Sun. Everywhere I go in the Andes I see churches neglected, empty, decaying. Even over the 15 years I have been coming here, the change has been very marked. I wonder whether any faith is declining quite as fast anywhere else in the world?

The Basilica San Francisco in La Paz, the ordinary people's favourite church, was overflowing 15 years ago. Today, although still the capital's busiest church, the Basilica is rarely full. Friends here tell me that the

peasants into new ways (as is often thoughtlessly alleged), the Church has preferred to leave their lifestyle alone, and gone with the grain of their old sins and ways. It has thus become a peasant religion.

Alcoholism is a terrific problem in the Andes, and the evangelicals — militant teetotalers — are challenging alcoholism as the Catholic Church never has. Coca-chewing has been a problem too. This is said to be on the decline in Bolivia, probably thanks to evangelical campaigns against the drug.

More than this, though, the message of individual responsibility, dignity and pride, through the individual's unmediated approach to God, is enormously liberating and disciplining for a peasant people whose culture has repressed individuality and subjected them to the norms of the many. Catholicism never challenged this subjugation of the individual.

To put it crudely, the Catholic Church in the Andes has taken the wrong side. I think its condition may now be critical. Visitors to the Island of the Sun 50 years hence may hear of an evangelical miracle in this place, pursuant to the Catholic one, which was pursuant to the Inca miracle, itself pursuant to the ancient meeting here of Heaven and Earth.

The Chinese Government seems not to understand what Hong Kong, and the world, expect of it

The encircled dragon lashes out

William Rees-Mogg

which needs careful diplomacy by all parties. At present, Chinese diplomacy is irritable, bullying and over-ambitious.

China's relations with Islam are particularly sensitive. China is the colonial power in occupation of two vast but lightly populated western regions: Tibet, which is Buddhist, and Xinjiang, which is predominantly Islamic. These colonial areas make up about a fifth of China's land mass, but contain only about 2 per cent of the total population. Large populations of Han Chinese have been imported into both of these regions;

these Han Chinese have the best jobs, the old cultures and religions have been undermined, there are occasional minor nationalist riots. The Chinese have created a large nuclear test site at Lop Nur in Xinjiang, and have built large prison camps.

It is worrying for the people of Hong Kong and the people of Taiwan that China's rule of these remote western regions has been so insensitive and repressive, wholly concentrated on the short-term interests of the regime. Unforgivable environmental damage, of a quite irreparable kind, has been done. The Hong Kong Chinese are increasingly fearful that the assurances of the Joint Declaration will prove meaningless for them, and that Hong Kong will be treated far worse as a Chinese colony after 1997 than it has been as a British one. The queues for passports may well indicate a further flight of capital, as well as of people.

The more critical Chinese observers are divided about the outlook. The optimists think that what has been going wrong has been caused simply by the gap between the Deng Xiaoping regime and the new regime of Jiang Zemin, which is still being established. In this sense, the *South China Morning Post* could still be regarded as among the optimists, treating the errors of policy as public relations blunders, compounded by the inadequacies of the information

presented to the leaders. The pessimists see these blunders, which amount to a basic failure to establish normal relations with China's neighbours, as typical signs of the end of a regime, the traditional disorder which has appeared at the end of every Chinese dynasty. Fewer people now think that there will be a benign transition from the present Leninist party rule to democracy as the younger group comes to power.

In the meantime, China's rapid economic development continues. After 1997, the Chinese regime in Hong Kong may do some damage to its wonderful money-making machine. International businesses have so far been remarkably willing to take the Joint Declaration on trust. That trust may be ending. The Chinese have already handled the future of Hong Kong in ways which have done great damage to public morale and confidence. The fear is now spreading to the international financial community. Yet Hong Kong has such momentum that it will take a long time to lose its attraction to investors, unless the new regime proves to be wholly perverse.

In the period before the Tiananmen Square killings, there was great world optimism about China's political development. Even after the massacre, it was widely believed that the repression was only an incident on China's journey to a more open society. In 1996, that confidence has been shaken by the mishandling of Hong Kong, by the continued oppression in the western territories and by the threat to Taiwan. All of China's neighbours, including India, have a feeling that the regime in Peking does not have a proper understanding of the world outside. The tragedy is that the world's goodwill is still there. China has been choosing to damage its own reputation; the test of the world would like nothing better than to re-establish good relations.

What Tony learnt from Bill

Campaigning isn't enough; Labour must show it can govern, writes Peter Riddell

Tony Blair can learn a lot from Bill Clinton — about how to win elections and about how not to govern. The two are linked, since the origins of the President's problems in office go back to the 1992 campaign. When the two met in the White House on Friday, much will be made of their similarities — leaders in their forties trying to change their parties and to present them as new and of the centre, after long periods of power and the political mainstream. There is the obvious risk of too much gushing about a new "special relationship", a Bill and Tony equivalent of the Ronnie and Maggie show of the 1980s, but Mr Blair and Mr Clinton are far too shrewd and unsentimental to believe such nonsense.

Political conditions are very different across the Atlantic, but the leading lights in "new" Labour are close to many of Mr Clinton's advisers. They follow the policy and political debate in Washington. Their contacts have ranged from a study of campaigning techniques by Philip Gould, a key Labour media adviser who worked in Little Rock for part of the 1992 campaign, to the discussions of the policy problems of economic management and security which Gordon Brown, and his adviser Ed Balls, regularly conduct with Robert Reich, Mr Clinton's Labour Secretary, and Larry Summers, the Deputy Treasury Secretary.

As a diplomat in the British Embassy in Washington, Blair's chief of staff, Jonathan Powell, monitored the Clinton campaign and arranged a visit there by Mr Blair and Mr Brown just after the inauguration. This visit and the addressing of a union-sponsored conference in Lon-

don by senior Clinton advisers led to charges that Labour was being Clintonised by the modernisers and with the new President soon running into serious problems. Mr Blair cooled his public enthusiasm. But Blair and Brown and their advisers have been crucially influenced by the Clinton experience. At one level, they have learnt about campaign tactics — the need for rapid response and rebuttal of the other side's comments, and for adherence to a consistent and focused message. Even Labour's new centralised media headquarters in Millbank is modelled on the Clinton campaign's war room.

More important are the strategic lessons: the importance of demonstrating that the party has changed, "new" Labour as much as "new" Democrat. This has involved showing that the party is in tune with the

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

values and aspirations of ordinary people. The same buzzwords recur on both sides of the Atlantic: opportunity, responsibility, community, partnership. Mr Blair's catchphrase as Shadow Home Secretary — "tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime" — was directly influenced by the rethinking of Mr Clinton's advisers. This approach has also emphasised the importance of symbolic actions to highlight change, such as the rewriting of Clause Four and Gordon Brown's repeated claims that Labour will not spend and tax for its own sake.

This campaign strategy took Mr Clinton to the White House, and it contained internally contradictory policies. It aimed to boost the

economy with an investment and training stimulus, while giving working people a tax cut, raising the taxes only of the very well-off, and taking action to cut the budget deficit. Not all of this could be achieved, and in office the Clinton Administration has been forced to drop the investment stimulus and make a priority of deficit reduction. The resulting budget package was impressive, but Mr Clinton did not receive much credit, since he had failed to fulfil his other promises.

His most serious failing was inconsistency. After being elected as a "new" Democrat, he appeared to sprawl to the left in office, with rows over appointments and homosexuals in the military. Healthcare reform, his policy priority for his second year, went nowhere, and he surrendered the initiative to the Republicans, who triumphed in the mid-term elections

of November 1994. Mr Clinton has recently recovered by moving back to the centre and by sticking to a tough line on the budget with the Republican Congress.

Some of the problems of Mr Clinton's presidency stem from his personal flaws, or from Whitehall. But in so far as they do not, there are obvious lessons, which Mr Blair's team understand. First, be consistent. Gordon Brown is determined to prevent his colleagues from making spending commitments, or even finding a commitment, which can be used by the Tories as ammunition or which cannot be implemented in office. Mr Blair's decision to jettison Labour members this autumn on the party's draft manifesto is intended not only to gain the support of the whole party for the programme, but to show that it is coherent and achievable.

Labour's second lesson is to be disciplined. Mr Blair's operation is tightly and centrally run, to the irritation of many Labour MPs. The third is to have a clear plan for government. There is no danger that Mr Blair will sprawl to the left in Downing Street. But after being out of office for so long, his party must have clear priorities for legislation and action to prevent drift and to avoid being sidetracked into irrelevant rows.

The patchy record of the Clinton Administration, however, raises the question of whether there are weaknesses inherent in what the new Democrats and new Labour are trying to do, as well as in the implementation. It is all very well for Mr Blair to tell bankers and businessmen in New York that Labour has changed, that it is not trying to free trade, enterprise and inward investment. But removing the fear of Labour is not the same as showing that it can really make a difference.

The Clinton Administration has not so far produced solid evidence that government can help to improve long-term economic performance by a partnership with business. Mr Clinton's new Democrats, as well as Mr Blair's new Labour, have yet to prove they can govern as successfully as they can campaign.

African queen

WHEN President Mandela visits Britain in July, his escort may have a faraway look in her eye. For Rochelle Mitrara, the woman most often seen by his side since his separation from Winnie Mandela, is said to be in love. A "granddaughter" of Mandela, in the sense that she is part of his extended tribal family, she is currently in the United States visiting her paramour, the South African footballer, Doctor Khumalo.

Khumalo, a hero of South Africa's recent victory in the African Nations Cup, sent Miss Mitrara an air ticket to join him in the United States two weeks ago. She is still there, staying with him while he plays football for the Columbus Crew in Ohio.

The two make quite a couple. Miss Mitrara's position as Mandela's escort has made her something of a pin-up, as well as virtual royalty. Meanwhile, Khumalo's wholesome features and silky skills have made him one of South Africa's most marketable sportsmen. He can be seen frequently on television and beaming down from advertising hoardings with spoonfuls of cereal halfway to his mouth.

Miss Mitrara, who plans to resume her studies in either Britain or America, after dropping out of university recently, lives in the President's mansion in Johannesburg, and in addition to accompanying Mandela at official events in South Africa, she has been on several foreign trips. The President is said to be keeping abreast of the romantic developments.

His office would say only that Miss Mitrara was out of the



President's friend: Rochelle

country "for personal reasons", and Khumalo is also keeping shunt on the matter. "I have met her on several occasions," he gurgles, "and know her from a distance."

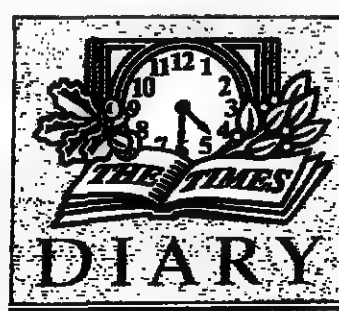
Odd one out

EASTER brings rumblings at The Catholic Herald, home to some of the country's more thrilling Romans. The Editor, Cristina Odono, 36, an excitable brunette of Italian extraction who can often be found at the centre of a fawning crowd of liver-spotted old men, is said to be on the point of leaving.

Odono, known as The Odd One, is set to take a sabbatical from the dizzying pace of the *Herald* very soon. She is not expected to return. Having raised the profile of her rag, she is said to want to concentrate on her sex-and-surprise novel-writing, following the modest success of her first book, *The Shrine*.

Blaired vision

WHILE Washington snoozes at the prospect of Tony Blair's visit this week, the excitement in Blair's London office is unbearable. It is not so much the issues being discussed that are causing the fuss



as the dribbling admiration that Blair's team are displaying for the pizza-scoffing, trainer-wearing apparitions of the White House.

As Peter Riddell explains above, Blair's tight coterie of advisers and spin-doctors closely matches the President's Staff. Both men have a penchant for youth, too. Where Blair has David Milliband, 30, and Tim Allen, 26, helping him with policy and the press respectively, Clinton has George Stephanopoulos, 34, doing both.

"Blair's people are obsessed with the Clinton team," says an observer, "and with the way so many of them, like Stephanopoulos, have achieved this sort of pop star status."

Do they remember, however, that one of the first ideas the Clinton campaign team offered Labour was the Sheffield rally which fin-

ished off Neil Kinnock's chances of beating John Major in 1992?

Quibbles, it seems. "It's actually very sweet," says one close to Blair's crew. "It's like Orpington Seconds visiting Manchester United for a training session."

When Blair hits New York this week, he may see some of the bumperstickers currently being distributed by Sidney Blumenthal, a writer for The New Yorker magazine. Alongside the regular "Clinton/Gore in '96" stickers are others



"I've got something on Blair too — fifty quid to win the election!"

designed to irritate Bob Dole, the 72-year-old Republican candidate who is having trouble convincing the country that he has enough of the vital juices left in him to be President. Blumenthal's sticker reads simply: "Bob Dole is 96".

Foxed

ATTENTION all hunting folk: the British Field Sports Society needs you. Robin Hanbury-Tenison, recently appointed chief executive of the society, has been shocked by the apathy of his members. Last month he sent a round-robin to his 80,000 members asking for help in the campaign for country sports. Only 930 replies came back.

A plea for help in recruiting new members was even less of a success, with only 50 people bothering to reply. "That's not even 0.1 per cent," howls Hanbury-Tenison. "What are all the rest doing?"

With the infiltration and neutering of the anti-hunting RSPCA on his agenda, H-T has no time to rest. Calling all those who hunt but don't join the society "plain free-loaders", he has now harrumphed off round the country to raise support by himself.

Swimmers at the Kensington New Pools in west London are excit-



Making waves: Damon

ed about their latest fellow paddler: Damon Albarn, lead singer of the pop group Blur. Albarn, who can regularly be seen toasting his hair in shop windows down the Portobello Road, has set the women's changing room, and certain corners of the men's, alight by punishing his skinny frame with lengths in the pool. "Lots of women are not wearing their swimming caps any more," says my spy in the deep end. "They want to look their best just in case Damon swims into them."

P.H.S

ENLISTING THE ALMIGHTY

Politics and piety do not mix in election campaigns

Since Tony Blair became leader, Labour has made an audacious success of claiming new converts. From the defection of the Conservative MP Alan Howarth to yesterday's report that his party is now more middle class than the Tories, Mr Blair has contrived to cast his net wider than other fishers of men. But one claim of support for new Labour may be as likely to insult as inspire.

In an otherwise thoughtful interview the Labour leader sought to sign up God for his own brand of Socialism. Mr Blair was careful to say his values rather than his policies were divinely inspired. But by seeking, however obliquely, to appropriate the Almighty's approval for his personal crusade Mr Blair is making a mistake.

In his interview in *The Sunday Telegraph* Mr Blair showed himself alive to the dangers of politicians creeping into the pulpit. He claimed: "I can't stand politicians who wear God on their sleeves." After this spiritual health warning he spoke with intelligence and honesty about the importance of his faith. The British are often embarrassed by public discussion of private belief, but Mr Blair dealt delicately with the importance of Christianity in his inner life.

He faltered when he tried to justify by faith his current politics. He argued: "My view of Christian values led me to oppose what I perceive to be the narrow view of self-interest that Conservatism — particularly in its modern, more right-wing, form — represents." He argued that it was his theology that was the "essential reason why I am on the left rather than the right." He may have protested that "I do not believe that Christians should vote only Labour". But the impression from his other comments is that Christians can hardly vote Conservative.

Mr Blair is no stranger to arrogance and never slow to demonise his enemies, although seldom so literally. He once described his critics on the left as in need of therapy. Now he seems to be arguing that his opponents on the right require salvation. The implication of his remarks is that

sincere Christians who are Conservatives such as Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, are either prepared to ignore their religious principles, or have not the character to put them into practice. Mr Blair's references to Pontius Pilate as the archetypal politician could not have been better chosen to suggest that those currently in authority are hypocritical and weak.

This is not the first time that Mr Blair has sought to enlist the Almighty. His last Labour conference speech was evangelical in tone and biblical in its rhetoric. His biographers have emphasised his churchgoing. He defended his choice of a grant-maintained school for his son on, among others, religious grounds. The depth of his beliefs does him credit. But his attempts to exploit them for political ends do not. Christian principles do not belong to any party.

If Mr Blair wishes to convert Conservatives he should rely on the strength of his policies, not a display of his piety. There is, however, one Bible lesson the Tories should bear in mind this Easter: they should take joy in sinners who repent. Dispatch of a dossier to Republicans in the US made up of past comments by Mr Blair and his wife, alleged to show them "anti-nuclear and anti-American", is unconvincing and unattractive. Opposition politicians abroad, by convention, do not attack their country's Government. The governing party should not stoop to this kind of attack on an opposition politician when he is visiting a friendly head of state.

Mr Blair may not have fought Labour's unilateralists with the vigour of some of his colleagues but he was never a stooge of the hard Left. Many of Labour's instincts are anti-American, but he is an admirer of the country and its President. Both parties would do the voters a service if they concentrated on justifying their programme for government instead of making unjustified attacks on their opponents' character.

AIR MAIL

The Post Office moves into the travel business

"The nearest gateway to the outside world may soon be the Post Office. If an experiment in selling cheap airline tickets from one of London's biggest branch offices proves successful, flights to Majorca, Berlin, New York and beyond may be departing from a counter near you. The Post Office, like other retailers with corporate sights set on the lucrative travel business, hopes that up to 600 of its outlets will soon be competing with high street travel shops. Privatisation may no longer be an option for the Post Office; but there are now no limits on the government agency's appetite for free market competition.

The six-month trial at the Trafalgar Square office is a logical extension of the Post Office's growing involvement in travel. It already sells travellers' cheques, travel insurance, foreign currency and handles passport application forms. The plan is to sell cut-price tickets for seats unsold on scheduled airlines; there are no proposals to offer package holidays. This would not bring the Post Office into direct competition with travel agents, which on the whole do not handle left-over seats. But airlines will benefit enormously: by definition, last-minute vacancies are not available for long, and if they are to sell they must be posted on a computer network that can reach millions of potential travellers quickly. The public, instead of having to search out backstreet shops with a fly-by-night reputation, will know where to look for bargains. The Post Office's solid reputation should dispel fears that such deals are unreliable.

There is still a risk — largely for the Post Office. Unless the plan is thoroughly rehearsed, the potential for a public relations disaster is enormous. Passengers who

buy such tickets may be the first to be bumped, should overbooking mask the real availability. The Post Office will be the first target of their ire. Post Office customers queuing to engage in such old-fashioned transactions as buying stamps or posting parcels will not restrain their patience if the pensioner ahead of them demands a travel through the list of cheap flights to Bermuda. Unless this new business is clearly separated from core Post Office activities, it will bring not profit but brickbats.

Profit is already in doubt. The Post Office is one of the great money-making branches of government. Over the next three years it will pay in £920 million to the Treasury. Turning around a loss-making industry was never the rationale for privatisation; indeed it was the success of the streamlined agency's components that roused even Conservative opposition to Michael Heseltine's plans — explained only in ideological terms — to sell its golden goose. The Post Office has already been imbued with the enterprise culture, so much so that Bill Cockburn, its former chief executive, was snatched in January by WH Smith to lend his expertise to the private sector.

Privatisation, however, would have been a signal for the Post Office, with its enviable reach into almost every British town and village, to exploit untrammelled its unique access and name recognition. Post Office counters has not needed encouragement to go down this road. Already smaller branches are becoming all-purpose general stores. Adding new services is commercially as well as politically attractive. It lifts the horizons of this once stuffy institution well beyond the shores of Britain.

MAMPRUGIPUIGINABA

A Norfolk teacher puts on the robes of tribal office

To be anointed a tribal chief in northern Ghana is an honour as ancient and elaborate as it is colourful. Enthroned on sheepskin and woven cushions, draped in red and black robes, presented with a carved wooden stick, the recipient is blessed by elders and acclaimed by drums and ululating dancers. When such an honour is bestowed on a Norfolk schoolteacher who spends her professional life conducting sixth-form chemistry classes at Hethersett Old Hall, it is a joyful signal of an exceptional achievement by an exceptional woman. Lynne Symonds was yesterday granted a right never before given to a white woman: the title of Mamprugipuinaba, meaning a chieftain of the Mamprusi tribe. She now has literally the power of life and death over her adopted subjects; but it is for her vital contribution to the tribe's life that she has been honoured.

Mrs Symonds has brought the priceless gift of learning to Wulugu, one of the most underdeveloped villages in northern Ghana. For the past year she has cajoled and persuaded British schools and well-wishers to raise enough money to build a well stocked library in Wulugu. Five students, as a result, have gained entrance to university. Now she is helping to build a boarding house for the 80 girl pupils. The villages have nothing with which to repay her except their

gratitude — and their ancestral honours.

Most countries express gratitude to foreigners who establish a special rapport with their citizens or who perform the state some signal service. Churchill was an honorary American citizen, Eisenhower an honorary Londoner. George Bush and Caspar Weinberger can call themselves knights, though may not use the title; a handful of Britons can wear in their lapels the ribbon of the Légion d'honneur. For an African country, however, to admit to the ranks of its revered elders a white woman from the nation of its former colonial rulers is more exotic and more flattering. The ceremonies and the circumstances may have a touch of Rider Haggard about them; but that only adds to the frisson of the occasion.

By presenting Mrs Symonds to the Nayiri, the Paramount Chief, the pupils and villagers of Wulugu have drawn international attention to what she has done. Her gifts of literature and science are, of course, keys to advancement for the impoverished. But the value lies in her personal engagement on behalf of her adopted village. Mrs Symonds is not a charity worker or a UNESCO official: she is a teacher from an ordinary English village. Personal friendships bind and inspire more than any aid programme. To those who nourish such human links belong tribal honour and glory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Examination of Oxford's efficiency and ability to adapt

From Professor R. L. Smith

Sir, As a British-born academic who has just resigned a chair at Cambridge to return to the United States, I find myself very much in agreement with the criticisms of Oxford University made by Coopers & Lybrand (report, April 1), and am not convinced by the defence put up by Roger Scruton ("In praise of useless knowledge", April 2).

During my two years at Cambridge I have lost track of the time I have spent in committees debating such matters as whether there should be four questions or five in a particular examination paper, or shuffling pieces of paper from college office to departmental office to university office because no two of the three separate administrations are capable of talking to each other.

There is much more to "efficiency" than mere cost calculations. It is not a matter of putting quantitative research goals above all else, as Scruton implies, but of getting on with the job we are paid to do — which is both teaching and research. Most of my Cambridge colleagues are highly conscientious and effective teachers, as well as top-quality researchers, but they are held back by the system.

Even college tutorials, so beloved by Professor Scruton, have many hidden costs. It is difficult to create a new course, or to make substantial changes to an existing one, without the agreement of a large number of college tutors or supervisors. Syllabi get out of date because they are so hard to change.

My only surprise about the Coopers & Lybrand report is that the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford had to hire outside consultants to find out what any reasonably well-travelled academic could have told him for nothing.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SMITH,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Pure Mathematics
and Mathematical Statistics,
16 Mill Lane, Cambridge.

From Dr Lionel Tarasenko
Sir, I fail to recognise the university in which I teach and do research in your

summary of the report from Coopers & Lybrand and especially in the article by Roger Scruton. I wonder how selective the management consultants were in their interviewing.

It is not my experience that "there is no stimulus for change in the curriculum". As a result of changes introduced in the last two years, the engineering science degree has a new syllabus and a new structure, the physicists have brought in a new four-year course and the university now offers brand new degrees in computation and in economics and management. The degree course on which I teach is vastly different from my own undergraduate course in the same department less than twenty years ago.

As for the Oxford which Roger Scruton describes, it is closer to the Oxford of today. "Scholars live side by side with their pupils," he writes. Very few dons nowadays live in college, and final-year options in the sciences are usually taught in small classes rather than tutorials.

Excellence in research, scholarship and teaching are not mutually incompatible in a modern university: indeed, it is the link between research and teaching which is often the stimulus for the kind of curriculum changes alluded to above.

The real question for the Vice-Chancellor's commission of inquiry is how best to enhance our ability to carry out world-class research whilst maintaining our traditional strengths, in teaching for example.

This goal, I believe, is attainable provided that we allow faculties enough independence to resolve the problem in a way which is optimal for their discipline.

Yours faithfully,
L. TARASENKO,
University of Oxford,
Department of Engineering Science,
Parks Road, Oxford,
April 2.

From Mr Tim Dyson
Sir, Roger Scruton is so brilliantly right after four "useless" years (1958-62) reading Greats at Balliol. I have

had a successful commercial career in international advertising, living and working throughout Europe, the Middle East and China, learning the different languages and cultures — thanks to my "useless" tutorial education in Latin, Greek and ancient philosophy.

If a bunch of purblind accountants takes over the Oxford system, I shall happily hand back my degree.

Yours sincerely,
TIM DYSON,
Tim Dyson Associates,
2 Investment House,
Queen's Road,
Weybridge, Surrey,
April 2.

From Mr Adam Shapiro and Mr Stephen Royle

Sir, The purpose of the Coopers & Lybrand inquiry was to show how the best of Oxford — scholarship and the perpetuation of knowledge for its own sake — could be preserved and strengthened against ravages of outsiders. These ravages include government cuts when student numbers are rising, new funding formulae and worldwide competition for the best staff and students.

The report did not come out against the college system. Nor did it come out against the tutorial system, observing it to be the "Rolls-Royce" of teaching methods.

These were not in its remit for consideration. It considered the governance of the university and made recommendations concerning how power may best be exercised by those academics most directly affected.

Oxford has survived since the 13th century by recognising that when things are wrong, they should be put right. Antiquity of abuse is no excuse for its continuance.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM SHAPIRO
(President,
Oxford University Student Council),
STEPHEN ROYLE
(Junior member, Hebdomadal Council),
Oxford University Student Council,
28 Little Clarendon Street, Oxford,
April 2.

Property laws on island of Sark

From Sir Peter Miller

Sir, Lord McAlpine's article, "The strange goings-on in Sark" (April 4), is itself somewhat strange.

For a member of the House of Lords to criticise another parliament for "pomp and ceremony... quaint traditions" and lack of democracy is a bit rich. Moreover, the article is flawed by errors and omissions.

Lord McAlpine does not mention the 12 People's Deputies who are elected to the Chief Pleas. While divorce is not possible on the island, Sark recognises divorces effected elsewhere. The policeman (or Constable) is elected by Chief Pleas, not by the Seigneur. Our lay magistrate has as much common sense as an English lay magistrate.

A lot is expected of the Seigneur as the island's chief representative. He receives no remuneration for his duties, beyond a feudal tax of deroirs proportions; this is the justification for the treizieme tax when property changes hands.

The inheritance laws of Sark are certainly complicated and may well be worthy of debate. However, it is possible to transfer property between the generations in accordance with the wishes of the owner, although it may involve a tax of 7.7 per cent. Is this too high an inheritance tax in an island which has no income tax?

The Sark system, of which the noble lord is so critical, works well. The island's civil service is cost-effective; there is no "national debt". While there are certainly serious problems (cost of teenage education and of care of the elderly) I wonder if the interests of affluent outsiders (in which category I include myself, however low on the scale) should have a high priority for attention?

Yours faithfully,
PETER MILLER
(Member of Chief Pleas),
La Ville Roussel,
Sark, Channel Islands,
April 6.

From Mr Bruce Parker

Sir, Lord McAlpine's assessment of the legal battle between the Barclay brothers and Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur of Sark, raises important questions.

Sark does, indeed, have its own parliament, the Chief Pleas. In reality, however, it forms part of the Guernsey Bailiwick where Sark laws are generally approved by the Royal Court or rejected, subject to appeal to the Privy Council.

Lord McAlpine suggests that the case between the Barclays and Mr Beaumont will move "from court to court until such time as it reaches the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg".

If he is right I wonder how soon other challenges might come before the European court, notably concerning the complicated laws in both Guernsey and Jersey which control the numbers of non-islanders wishing to take up residence and work there.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE PARKER,
58 Canon Street,
Winchester, Hampshire,
April 4.

Storm over cuppa

From Mrs S. E. Ellis

Sir, Anyone born and bred in Devon knows that scones (letter, March 30) should be split whilst still warm from the oven, thickly coated with clotted cream and crowned with home-made raspberry jam. Cream with treacle atop delights in the title "Thunder and lightning". Butter has no role to play at all.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN ELLIS,
17 Manton Hollow,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
April 4.

Hymns for occasions

From Mrs Lorna Boyce

Sir, Our daughter, a slightly apprehensive traveller, insists that we play the hymn *Eternal Father, strong to save*, whenever she crosses the Channel by ferry.

We wondered what we should play when she flew to Germany recently and eventually selected *He who would valiant be 'Gaiest all disaster reinforced'* by All my hope on God is founded.

Is there a more appropriate hymn and also one which would be suitable for the Channel Tunnel, should she brave its perils in the future?

Yours sincerely,
LORNA BOYCE,
Offa's Dyke, 7 Brynawel,
Brigden, Mid Glamorgan,
April 6.

Aptly named

From Mr Christopher Barrass and Mr Tim Towle

Sir, "Far from protecting human rights, therefore," (letter, April 3), "Baroness Turner's Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill would diminish them." SOD's law?

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER BARRASS,
TIM TOWLE,
Corporate Communications,
Brackdene House,
Oak Grange Road, Guildford, Surrey,
April 3.

Torode answers Levin

From Mr John Torode

Sir, I was horrified by Bernard Levin's quite bizarre article "The sins of the fathers" (April 5) which, no doubt unintentionally, gravely distorts a piece I wrote three months ago for the *Daily Mail*. In it I tried to unravel the relatively minor role my father played for the Communist International, primarily as a Soviet courier into Nazi Germany in the mid-1930s, and the pressure that may subsequently have been imposed on him by the Soviet Union.

As I thought my affectionate and respectful article made clear, he was a brave and honourable man who risked his life in the struggle against Nazism. He misjudged the nature of Stalinism at a time when many others did so. He gradually broke with the Communist Party of Great Britain after the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939. Subsequently, as a trade union general secretary, he was active in the post-war purging of communists from the London Trades Council, one of the crucial moments in the Cold War struggle to ensure that the British trade union movement did not fall under communist control.

To describe him as a "traitor" is a grotesque travesty of my article, my beliefs — and of the evidence. And to draw parallels between my position and that of the children of Germans who gassed Jews is stupid, offensive and inaccurate. It is equally offensive and inaccurate to suggest that I might have considered suicide on discovery of my father's role.

Far from going to my grave with my father's brand on my heart, as Levin writes, I will go to my grave proud to have been his son and proud of his record.

Yours etc,
JOHN TORODE,
25 Platt's Lane, SW3,
April 7.

Newspaper records

From Mr M. M. Charlish

Sir, I recently sought to identify an undated and unnamed newspaper cutting given me by an old comrade about important actions in which the Wessex reconnaissance regiment had been involved during 1945, and which I needed to identify for regimental archives. My inquiries revealed that of a number of West Country newspapers, some — no names, no pack drill — had no records before 1950.

In spite of considerable help kindly given freely by the Gloucestershire and Avon library services, I had no option but to follow their advice and search in the British Newspaper Library at Colindale, northwest London. Fortunately my wife and I were able to visit successfully in one day, which might have been impossible (or very expensive) for someone having to travel far.

Some newspaper records are not even available at Colindale, and alternative sources are thus particularly valuable.

Local newspapers must be made financially strong enough to support the retention of their own records.

Yours faithfully,
M. MCWEN CHARLISH,
132 Park Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.

Cairngorm funicular

From the Chief Executive of the Cairngorm Chairlift Company

Sir, The letter from Sir Chris Bonington and others (March 27) suggesting that the Secretary of State for Scotland should intervene in the planning for the proposed Cairngorm funicular railway contains an inaccuracy.

The funicular will be a straightforward, albeit much improved, replacement for our obsolete 35-year-old chairlift system. It will not go to the summit, as suggested, but duplicate the chairlift route, ending at the existing top station at 3,600ft, 464ft below the summit of Cairn Gorm.

Facilities in the Ptarmigan building at the top station no longer adequately serve our winter market. The new building is larger but is sited half a mile horizontally from the plateau.

It will offer an effective system for visitor management and for the first time protect the summit and plateau area from wandering feet by ensuring that non-skipping visitors out of season are contained within the ski area.

The company is actively pursuing a sensitive and sustainable development programme consistent both with the preservation of our superb environment and the needs and aspirations of our local communities.

Yours sincerely,
TIM WHITTING, Chief Executive,
Cairngorm Chairlift Company,
Aberdeen, Highland Region,
April 6.

From Mr Ian J. Wade

Sir, I realise that I enter the lion's den when I take issue with the eminent list of presidents of the Alpine Club. However, to someone like me who knows the Cairngorm area well, their assertion that "this proposal would do irreparable damage to one of Europe's most important wild areas, both in landscape and nature-conservation terms", seems way over the top when the building of the railway would affect perhaps no more than 1 per cent of the vast Cairngorm area.

More relevant is the fact that, in a recent poll, the vast majority of the local populace, in an area where job prospects are very bleak, expressed themselves in favour of the project.

Yours etc,
IAN J. WADE,
32 Belmont Road,
Harrow, Middlesex,
March 27.

Polish march past

From Mr Michael George Olizar

Sir, The finer points of military drill are probably as difficult to judge as steps in ballroom dancing. It is therefore, perhaps, understandable that Alan Hamilton (report, March 26) should have confused the march of the Polish guard of honour before the Queen in Warsaw, with the Russian goose step.

The Polish step is indigenous and smoother and there would be no reason for it, as Mr Hamilton suggests, to be abolished if Poland ever joins Nato.

Earlier British journalists have made a similar mistake. When in 1940, in Scotland, Polish units marched past King George VI and Queen Elizabeth it was suggested that their step was akin to the German goose step and would have to be changed.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL GEORGE OLIZAR,
18 Hazlewell Road, Putney, SW15,
April 1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Lottery awards

From Mr Jez Hall

Sir, A revision of the rules for the distribution of lottery awards to encompass grants to talented sports and arts students is to be welcomed (report, April 2), but why should sports and the arts be singled out?

Unlike when I was a student in the early Seventies, students of all academic disciplines are now forced by the system to take out loans.

Why are we not using lottery funds to restore the grant system to all those with talent be they future doctors, teachers, or even Secretaries of State for Heritage?

Yours faithfully,
JEZ HALL,
42 Newcastles, Newburgh,
Wigan, Greater Manchester,
April 2.

In the chair

From Mr F. J. Mellor

Sir, I believe that the most effective debunking of the monstrous verbal circumlocutions perpetrated in the name of political correctness (letters, March 23, 27, 30, April 1) may lie with the Tory opposition leader of an inner London borough where the newly elected Labour council, drunk with success and crusading zeal, is said to have spent 1½ hours debating whether to use the term "chairman/woman", "chairperson" or "chair".

At the conclusion of the debate they decided on "chair", whereupon the opposition leader rose and said: "Chair, may I introduce myself to the new members? I am the opposition spoke."

Yours etc,
F. J. MELLOR,
16 Newhouse Crescent,
Norden,
Rochdale, Lancashire,
April 2.



COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE, St JAMES'S PALACE
April 6: The Duchess of Kent, as Guest of Honour, this afternoon attended the Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race, commencing at the Embankment, Putney, London SW15.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will be briefed on repairs to the Forth Bridge at the viewing area adjacent to the North Cantilever, North Queensferry, at 10.20. As President of the Prince's Trust, he will visit the Kirkcaldy Ferry, Bridge Street, Kirkcaldy, at 11.10; as President of Scottish Business in the Community, will visit the Tryst Community Centre, Abbeyview Estate, Dunfermline, at 12.30; and will visit Culross at 2.00.

Birthdays

Mr Tony Banks, MP, 53; Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 52; Mr Mark Blundell, racing driver, 30; Sir Andrew Bowden, MP, 66; General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, 72; Lord Grantchester, 45; Mr J.P. Kavanagh, racehorse trainer, 53; Mr Harold Lightman, QC, 90; Air Commandant Dame Alice Lowrey, former matron-in-chief, PMRAFNS, 91; Mrs Mary Moore, former Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 66; Mr W. Garth Morrison, Chief Scout, 53; Mr Peter Rogers, chief executive, ITC, 55; Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, 77; Mr Alec Stewart, cricketer, 33; Sir Thomas Thomson, former chairman, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 73; Miss Dorothy Tutin, actress, 65; Miss Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer, 55.

Church of Scotland

Appointments

Ordinations and inductions
The Rev Neil Gow to Blair Atholl and Struan.
The Rev David Pritchett to St Andrew's, Perth.
The Rev Andrew J Philip to St Enoch's, Glasgow.
The Rev Pauline Stenbergen to St Luke's and Queen Street, Broughty Ferry.
Ordination and introduction
The Rev Elizabeth J Ross to part-time assistant, Jubilee Community at Holburn West Church.
Inductions
The Rev Adrian J T Rennie to Drylaw, Edinburgh.
The Rev Trevor Williams to St Peter's, Peterculter, Aberdeen.
Translations
The Rev J Christopher Ledgerd from Boyleville and Ordughill & Cornhill to Upper Donside.

University news

London
Queen Mary and Westfield College
Appointments and promotions
Chair of Molecular Biology: Dr C P Lichtenstein, Lecturer in Genetic Engineering, Imperial College.
Chair of Linguistics: Professor Jennifer Cheshire, Universities of Fribourg and Neuchâtel, Switzerland.
Chair of Inorganic Chemistry: Dr A. Vick, Institute of Physical Chemistry, Prague.
The title of Professor of Modern History in the University of London has been conferred on Dr John A Ramsden, hitherto Reader in Modern History.

Readerships
Reader in Computer Science: Dr Victoria Stavridou, Royal Holloway College, University of London.
Reader in Computing Science: Dr P W O'Hearn, Syracuse University, New York.

The title of Reader has been conferred on the following:
Dr R K Tavakoli (Senior Lecturer in Astronomy), Mathematics and Astronomy.
Dr M J Thompson (Lecturer in Astronomy), Mathematics and Astronomy.

St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry
Chair of General Practice: Dr Yvonne H Carter, Senior Lecturer in Department of General Practice, University of Birmingham.

The following University of London titles have been conferred:
Dr M A Armstrong-James (Reader in Neurophysiology), Professor of Neurophysiology.
Dr J W Cold (Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychiatry), Professor of Forensic Psychiatry.

Dr Richard Iles (Reader in the Biochemistry of Metabolic Disorders), Professor of the Biochemistry of Metabolic Disorders, Faculty of Clinical Medicine.
Dr I R Phillips (Reader in Molecular Biology), Professor of Molecular Biology.

Dr R H Rezek (Senior Lecturer in Diagnostic Radiology), Professor of Medical Imaging.
Dr Mary Sugden (Reader in Biochemistry), Professor of Cellular Biochemistry.

Dr B W Wren (Senior Lecturer in Medical Microbiology), Reader in Medical Microbiology.
Ms Claire Barnes, formerly Head of Human Resources at Middlesex University, has been appointed Director of Personnel.

Nature notes

THE first swallows are back from South Africa. They are light, elegant flyers, bypassing each other over rivers and lakes in pursuit of flying insects. Some house-m Martins have also been seen, but most of them will arrive towards the end of the month. Their numbers were down in the last two years, and many householders are hoping they will return to build under their eaves again this year. Chiffchaffs have now arrived in most parts of Britain and are singing their tinkling song high in the woods.

White-spotted bluethroats have been reported on the East Coast, and one was blown by the east winds into Hertfordshire at the weekend. They are sprightly, robin-like birds with a blue breast and a white patch in the centre of it. A few



Chiffchaff: tinkling song

pass up the coast in most springs, but they do not stay to breed. Leaves are still reluctant to appear on the trees. On ash trees there are purple clusters of flowers around the black leaf-buds. The long catkins on aspen trees are already crumbling. The first queen bumblebees are out, buzzing along the hedgerows: they were fertilised when they were young last autumn. DJM



Zara Phillips, daughter of the Princess Royal, leaving the Deanery yesterday ahead of Prince William and Captain Timothy Laurence after the Royal Family had attended the Easter Day service at St George's Chapel, Windsor

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Loudon, horticulturist, Cambuslang, Strathclyde, 1783; Dionysius Solomos, poet, Zante, Greece, 1798; Sir Arthur Streeton, Australian painter, Victoria, 1867; Harvey Cushing, neurosurgeon, Cleveland, Ohio, 1869; Albert I, King of the Belgians, 1909-34, Brussels, 1875; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Chester, 1889; Mary Pickford, silent film star, Toronto, 1893; Sonja Henie, world skating champion and film actress, Oslo, 1912.

DEATHS: El Greco, painter, Toledo, 1614; Karl von Humboldt, philosopher and educator, Tegel, Germany, 1855; Elisha Otis, pioneer of the safety lift, Yonkers, New York, 1861; Erik Karlfeldt, poet, posthumous Nobel laureate 1931, Stockholm, 1931; Vaslav Nijinsky, ballet dancer, London, 1950; Pablo Picasso, painter, Mougins, France, 1973; Omar Nelson Bradley, American army general, New York, 1981.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship *Great Western* sailed from Bristol on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic to New York, 1838.

King Zog of Albania abdicated, 1939.

The League of Nations held its final meeting, 1946.

In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta was convicted for his involvement with the Mau-Mau, 1953.

Lord Dainton, Lord Tombs and the Archbishop of Glasgow have been elected Honorary Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The following have been elected as Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh:
Colin Kerr Ballantyne, Professor of Physical Geography, University of St Andrews; Stephen Mark Barnett, Senior Lecturer, Department of Physics & Applied Physics, University of Strathclyde; George Bennett, Corporate Vice President & General Manager, Motorola; Sally Ann Brown, Professor of Education, University of Stirling; Alexander Charles Brownie, Teaching & Research Fellow, Department of Biochemistry, University of Dundee; Emeritus Distinguished Teaching Professor, State University of New York; Victoria Geraldine Bruce, Professor of Psychology, University of Edinburgh; Ian William Drummond Dalziel, Professor and Senior Research Scientist, Institute of Geophysics, University of Texas; Sir Graeme (John) Davies, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Glasgow; John Barry Dent, Professor, Institute of Geology and Resource Management, University of Edinburgh; R Anthony Duff, Professor of Philosophy, University of Stirling; Christopher Ernest Fay, Chairman and Chief Executive, Shell UK, London; Ian Fells, Professor of Energy Conversion, Department of Chemical and Process

Royal Society of Edinburgh

Engineering, University of Newcastle upon Tyne; Thomas Douglas Macpharlan Gifford, Reader, Department of Scottish Literature, University of Glasgow; Ian James Graham-Boye, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Dundee; Peter James Halling, Professor of Biocatalysis Science, Department of Bioscience & Biotechnology, University of Strathclyde; Anthony John Harman, Honorary Professor, University of Edinburgh; Norman clinical scientist, MRC Brain Metabolism Unit, Royal Edinburgh Hospital; Ronald Thomas Hay, Professor of Molecular Biology, University of St Andrews; Felicity Ann Huntingford, Professor & Head of Division of Environmental & Evolutionary Biology, University of Glasgow; James McDonald Strachan Hutchinson, Reader in Biomedical Physics, University of Aberdeen.

Angus I. Lomond, Professor of Biochemistry, University of Dundee; Ellen Birgitte Lane, Professor of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Director of CRC Cell Structure Laboratory, University of Dundee; Christine Anne Lecker, Professor of Art History, University of St Andrews; Neil Mackie, International Concert Singer and Head of Vocal Studies, Royal College of Music, London; David Dewar MacNicol, Reader, Department of Chemistry, University of Glasgow; Christopher Masters, Chief Executive, Christian Salverson, Edinburgh; Thomas Jefferson Maxwell, Director, Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen; Denis Gordon McDevitt, Dean of Medicine & Dentistry and Professor of Clinical Pharma-

cology, University of Dundee; Andrew David McGiettrick, Professor of Computer Science, University of Strathclyde; James Clark St Clair, Sean McKee, Professor of Mathematics, University of Strathclyde; Sheila Ann Manson McLean, Director, Institute of Law and Ethics in Medicine, University of Glasgow; James Francis McMillan, Professor of European History, University of Strathclyde; Alan Miller, Professor of Semiconductor Physics, University of St Andrews; Stewart Crichton Miller, Director, Engineering & Technology, Rolls Royce, Derby; Christopher David Morris, Professor and Head of Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow; James Lodian Murray, Emeritus Professor, Heriot-Watt University, Senior Associate, Murray Technology Management Associates.

Robert Winston Keith Odoni, Professor of Mathematics, Mathematics Department, University of Glasgow; Alan Alexander Paterson, Professor of Law, The Law School, University of Strathclyde; Peter Nicholas Pusey, Professor of Physics, University of Glasgow; Lord Victor Charles Rees, Honorary Fellow, Department of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh; John Stuart Richardson, Professor of Classics, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Provost of Faculty Group of Arts, Divinity and Music, University of Edinburgh; Frederick William Rimmer, Emeritus Professor of Music, University of Glasgow; John Joseph Robinson, Senior Scientist in Animal Reproduction, Scottish Agricultural College, Aberdeen; Michael Derek Rugg, Professor of Psychology, University of St Andrews; James Shepherd, Professor of Pathological Biochemistry, University of Glasgow; David McPherson Sloan, Professor of Mathematics, University of Strathclyde; Alan Gordon Rae Smith, Professor of Early Modern History, University of Glasgow; Andrew Benjamin Smith, Senior Research Scientist, Department of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, London; Kenway Montgomery Smith, Professor of Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow; John Fletcher Smyth, Imperial Cancer Research Fund Chair of Medical Oncology, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh; William Edryd Stephens, Senior Lecturer in Geology, University of St Andrews.

Ian Pollock Sward, Senior Executive Vice-President, Sodite Generale de Surveillance, Inverclyde Research International, Tranent; East Lothian; Joseph McGeochy Thomson, Regius Professor of Law, University of Glasgow; Colwyn Trevarthen, Professor of Child Psychology and Psychobiology, University of Edinburgh; John Barry Tucker, Professor of Cell Biology, School of Biological & Medical Sciences, University of St Andrews; George Alistair Watson, Professor and Head of Department, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Dundee; Crispin James Garth Wright, Professor of Logic & Metaphysics, University of St Andrews; Stephen James Yeaman, Professor of Molecular Enzymology, Department of Biochemistry & Genetics, University of Newcastle upon Tyne; Douglas Wilson Young, Professor of Chemistry, University of Sussex.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.G. Finnes
and **Miss P. Kang Chai Lian**
The engagement is announced between Martin, second son of Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, of Broughton Castle, Banbury, and Pauline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kang Tiong Lam, of 10 Somerville Walk, Singapore.

Marriages

Sir John Ropner, Bt
and **Mrs N. Tippet**
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 6, in Northampton, North Yorkshire, of Sir John Ropner, Bt, to Mrs Niki Tippet.

The bride was given in marriage by her son, Mr Gavin Mayhew. Mr Henry Ropner was best man.
Mr J.P. Knight and the Hon Helena M. Renfrew
The marriage took place on Saturday in Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge, of Mr Jonathan Knight, elder son of Mr Philip Knight, of Oxford, Kent, and of Mrs Hilary Howlett, of Blackheath, London, to the Hon Helena Renfrew, daughter of Lord and Lady Renfrew of Kaimsthorpe, of Jesus College. The Rev Dr T. Jenkins and the Right Rev R. Hare officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Ruth Knight, Rachel Nicholson, Fergus Knight, Philip Nicholson and Miss Francesca Lepper. Mr Andrew Lowrie was best man.

A reception was held at Jesus College and the honeymoon will be spent in Italy, Guatemala and Mexico.

Latest wills

Mr Arthur Sidney Martin, of Alveston, Oxfordshire, a member of the Security Service 1946-64 and an officer with the Secret Intelligence Service 1964-69, left estate valued at £437,916 net.

Mary Kathleen Frost, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £172,560 net. She left all of her estate equally between the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, British Red Cross Society and National Library for the Blind.

Joan Mary Bosdet, of Thame, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £37,805 net. She left her entire estate to the Queen's Association, Cirencester, London.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy & Royal Marines

CAPTAIN: A W Netherclift to MOD Bath as Commander, 30.8.96.
SURGEON CAPTAIN: N E Baldock to staff of 2SL/CNH as Surgeon, Caommander, 3.5.96.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL: A R Pillar to BDS Washington as Loc Colonel, 26.7.96.

COMMANDER: M J Bam-borough to Warrior, 4.10.96; MC Cowdrey to Fearless, 2.8.96; S A George to Bristol, 1.10.96; J H Leatherby to Neptune, 18.10.96; J C Mundy to Portsmouth, 1.4.96; R W Parry to Britannia, 20.8.96; D J Sayer to RNC Greenwich, 1.4.96; A G H Underwood to staff of 2SL/CNH, 29.11.96.

CHAPLAIN: J T Beadle to Portsmouth, 7.5.96; T M Burns to Andover, 1.4.96; B K Hammett to Andover, 1.4.96; R S Wort to Sultan, 19.4.96.

Retirements
COLONEL: G F Smart, 23.6.96.

COMMANDER: D K Davidson, 5.6.96; D H Furneaux, 26.6.96; T J H Gedge, 30.4.96; P T Norton, 9.6.96.

The Army

MAJOR GENERAL: Brig W R Short QHP to be Director General Army Medical Service as Major General, 9.4.96.

BRIGADIER: J H Griffin to HQ Land, 9.4.96; J T Holmes OBE to Shape, 8.4.96; M J Randle to Surgeon General, 1.4.96; R Rook OBE to MOD, 12.4.96.

COLONEL: D R Jeffery to HQ Land, 9.4.96; J S Kerr MBE to MOD, 8.4.96; L P Lillywhite MBE to HQ Land, 9.4.96; P T C Pearson to JHQIT, 9.4.96; J M Bowles MBE to be Director DTMX, 9.4.96.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL: R J Christopherson RA to R & L (East), 9.4.96; A M Gibson AAC to MOD, 11.4.96; I P Graham Reine to be Comd 1 AFHQ Scotland, 9.4.96; J T Horsford Kings to HQ 2 Div, 9.4.96.

Retirements
COLONEL: J D E Edwards late RADC, 12.4.96.

Royal Air Force

GROUP CAPTAIN: A Campbell to JSDC Greenwich, 12.4.96; B T Dingle to HQ PTC, 12.4.96.

WING COMMANDER: M Ellaway to MOD/D Force Development, 25.3.96; J A Hall to HQ II GP B, Priority, 25.3.96; D A Haward to MOD, 25.3.96; A M Watson to HQ LC Brampton, 25.3.96; J P S Fynes to HQ CFS Cranwell, 1.4.96; J M Leigh to RAF High Wycombe, 1.4.96; C C Nash to HQ II GP B, Priority, 1.4.96; D A Wilson to RAF Waddington, 1.4.96; A G Walton to JHQ Northwood, 2.4.96; J H Macdonald to HQ 38 GP, 1.4.96; P H Steiner to HQ 38 GP, 1.4.96; K J Harris to MOD London, 9.4.96; P J Lock to D or (ICS), 9.4.96; C W Spear to D POL (ICS) London, 9.4.96; A G Willenbruch to HQ LC Wyton, 9.4.96; D G Wilson to MOD London, 10.4.96.

Retirements
GROUP CAPTAIN: J D Lunt, 13.4.96.

The Royal Caledonian Ball

The Royal Caledonian Ball will be held on Thursday, May 2, at Grosvenor House, London W1. Ball tickets are available at £60 to include wine, whisky and full breakfast. The Ball commences 10.00pm with dancing until 3.30am. Dinner tickets are available at £29.00 to include half bottle of wine. Tickets are still available from Mrs R.H. Tym, The Old Manse, High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6EX. Day Tel: 01264 810600, Eve Tel: Fax/Answering: 01264 810363.

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

Can you not see that as long as there is jealousy and strife among you, you are unfruitful, living on the purely human level.
1 Corinthians 3: 3-4

DEATHS

EDWARDS - April 6th 1996 Mary Edwards, aged 82 years of Salcombe, West Sussex, widow of John Hewlett Edwards and dear mother of Fay, Lorna and Peter, a much loved mother in law and grandmother. Funeral service, Surrey and W Sussex Crematorium, 2.15 pm, Friday 12th April. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Cancer Research may be sent to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Lincoln Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

DEATHS

ELMHIRST - Alfred Octavius (Pond), much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Died at Hounslow on 3rd April 1996 aged 94. Having donated his body to science, a memorial service will be held at Worsborough Parish Church at 2 pm 10th May. Donations in lieu of flowers please to The Cooper & Worsborough Relief in Sickness Fund c/o Elmthirst & Manton Solicitors, 17/19 Regent Street, Barmsey, S70 2HP.

DEATHS

NOTON - On April 3rd, peacefully in hospital aged 87, Leslie Widdowson Popp. Much loved husband of Beryl, dear father of Richard and grandfather of Charles and Henrietta. The funeral will take place at St James' Church, Yarmouth on April 11th at 2pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers, donations if desired to St James' Church, Yarmouth, 01953 760733.

FOR SALE

THE TRINITY - 1791-1990 other sites available. Ready for presentation - see Sunday afternoon - 0171-481-4000.

FLATSHARE

FLATWATER London's best kept secret. 1970s Professional flat. 1200 sq ft. 2 bedrooms. 1 bathroom. 1 kitchen. 1 living room. 1 dining room. 1 study. 1 terrace. 1 garden. 1 parking space. 1 garage. 1 driveway. 1 carport. 1 shed. 1 outbuilding. 1 garage. 1 driveway. 1 carport. 1 shed. 1 outbuilding.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the One Hundred and Seventieth Annual General Meeting of the Members of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society will be held in the principal office, Amicable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ, on Tuesday, 23rd April 1996, at 4.00 pm.

By Order of the Directors
J. C. Mitchell, Secretary
8th March 1996

Scottish Amicable

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OBITUARIES

GREER GARSON



Greer Garson with Walter Pidgeon in *Mrs. Miniver*, 1942

Greer Garson, actress, died on April 6 aged 92. She was born on September 29, 1903.

GREER GARSON was one of Hollywood's most bankable women stars during the Second World War. She was not a stunning beauty, but a proud, intelligent-looking actress who arrived in Hollywood at exactly the right time. The previous generation of Hollywood queens — Greta Garbo, for instance — had just passed their peaks and audiences were beginning to tire of seeing them. More than any other actress of her generation, it was Garson's fate to be remembered for her role in one film, the morale-raising *Mrs. Miniver* (1942) — a film which is credited with having emotionally conditioned the American public to the necessity of war. *Mrs. Miniver* was made in 1942, when America was still overcoming the shock of Pearl Harbor. As the title suggests it was a woman's film, the focus of the narrative being placed squarely on the shoulders of the anonymous heroine played by Garson.

It was set in an England which had never existed, a chocolate box world of rose-strewn villages, landed gentry and old family retainers. Unlike British war films of that year, which stressed how much ordinary people were contributing to the war effort, *Mrs. Miniver* was shameless in the emphasis it placed on the fortitude of the middle-classes. Mrs. Miniver is the sort of woman who, when confronted with the awful possibility of invasion, goes out and buys a new hat. Despite all this, British audiences seemed to like the film as much as the Americans.

Mrs. Miniver was only one of a series of wifely roles for Garson. She liked to say that MGM stood, in her case, for "Metro's Glorious Mrs". She played tender wives, understanding wives, stoic wives and militant wives. She was undoubtedly striking, with pale skin, Titian hair, blue-green eyes, a haughty nose and a firm chin. But she was never allowed to be too alluring, and her femininity was habitually restricted beneath bustles, corsets and all the paraphernalia of costume drama. For this reason, some critics thought she was just a little too poised, elegant and stuffily respectable.

This was unfair, because Garson had taken on a fairly wide range of roles, particularly in youth. Some of the blame for her diminishing popularity after the war must be laid firmly at the door of her studio, MGM, which provided her with some extremely poor vehicles after the success of *Mrs. Miniver*.

Greer Garson was born in Co. Down, Northern Ireland, the daughter of a businessman, and like many actresses of her generation shrouded the year of her birth in mystery. She came from Scottish stock, being a descendant of Rob Roy MacGregor, but her ancestors had emigrated to Ireland (Greer was a corruption of the clan name).

She acted in her first piece of premeditated entertainment — a medieval bric-a-brac about princesses and dragons — at the age of four, and seized every opportunity to act thereafter. Her grandmother remarked that she would rather see a British film offer and that Noel Coward had jokingly threatened her

"kicking her legs on a stage" for a profession, and for a while it seemed that Garson's blue-stocking tendencies might yet see her onto a more respectable career path as a teacher. She won a scholarship to the University of London, and later studied at Grenoble.

It was during a day studying in the British Museum, where she was meant to be immersed in French literature, that Garson — watching the bent backs of the old museum servants — revolted. She decided to give up her studies, and to set herself up as a freelance writer instead. She joined an advertising firm and worked, very lucratively for a while, as a research executive. But this was taking her further away again from the theatre.

Once more she impulsively decided on a change of career, and auditioned for the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Her first role was Shirley Kaplan in *Street Scene*. Then followed a chance meeting at the University Women's Club in London with the playwright Sylvia Thompson, and Garson was given the leading part in Thompson's *The Golden Arrow* (1935). Six plays in London, all very well-received, followed over the next two years. George Bernard Shaw was sufficiently impressed to describe her, at this stage, as the natural successor to Ellen Terry.

During the last of these plays, *Old Music* (1937), Garson was being watched from the audience by an enthusiastic Louis B. Mayer, and he, impressed by her beauty and poise, offered her a year's contract with MGM. She agreed, despite the fact that she had already turned down a British film offer and that Noel Coward had jokingly threatened her

with physical violence should she ever desert the stage for the screen. "Money has a quiet charm," she reflected when she had reached the shores of America.

The attractions of a steady pay cheque may have enticed her there, but to begin with at least, MGM offered her little in the way of a decent part. In time-honoured studio fashion, they spent their first year sizing up their new property, and vainly searching for a vehicle. Garson took screen tests for some ill-fated pictures, but was so bored and homesick that she was planning to return when her first contract was up.

With good timing, MGM then offered her a chance to play in *Goodbye Mr Chips* (1939) which was to be filmed in England, and though she was worried that the part was a mousy one — that of Mr Chips's saintly wife who dies twenty minutes into the film — she quickly agreed. Sentimental and quaint as it may now seem, the film was a huge commercial success at the time. Graham Greene wrote of it: "The whole picture bears a glow of popularity like the face of a successful candidate on election day. And it is wrong to despise popularity in the cinema." *Mr Chips* brought Garson a nomination in the Oscars (the first of seven), and made her a much hotter property in the eyes of casting agents when she returned to Hollywood.

Garson then appeared in a witless comedy called *Remember?* ("Let's not," she said afterwards), before being cast as Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* (1940). It was not the most sensible piece of casting: Garson was pleased to have the

opportunity to show that her reputation in London as a comedian was not unfounded, and she did not display much subtlety. But again, it was an animated, bouncing film, and it helped to confirm her growing stature in Hollywood.

There followed *Blossoms in the Dust* (1941), her first film opposite Walter Pidgeon with Garson playing Mrs Edna Gladney, founder of a state orphanage, and campaigner to remove the stigma of illegitimacy from children born out of wedlock. This was a shameless tear-jerker, which distorted the facts into a neat star vehicle, but which women — who were making up a growing percentage of Garson's following — hooked to see. To her credit, Garson never thought much of it.

With America still wavering between isolationism and intervention in the war, production on *Mrs. Miniver* got under way, with Garson again playing opposite Pidgeon. Other actresses had already blanched at the idea of playing a wife and mother with grown-up children and had rejected the role. Garson, however, though she looked too young to have a son in the RAF, accepted and was proved right. By the time the film was released, America had joined the war and *Mrs. Miniver* was thus shown at just the right moment, being seen to symbolise not only British but American sacrifice. It scooped a string of Oscars at that year's awards ceremony, including one for Garson as best actress.

The success of the film encouraged MGM to work on more British-style films. Of these *Random Harvest* (1942), with Ronald Colman, kept the propaganda to a minimum, but again had Garson playing the noble, faithful wife. She was becoming

worried about typecasting, but the film did at least afford her the chance to defy her grandmother, by appearing in a kilt and showing that she also had excellent legs. *Mrs. Parkington* (1944), about a lady's maid who comes into money, was less convincing.

With the ending of the war, Garson's popularity started to suffer a slow but irretrievable decline. She made a film with Clark Gable, who was newly-released from service, called *Adventure*, about a romance between a librarian and a sailor: "Gable's back and Garson's got him," enthused the headlines. But the film did not live up to the hype, and was a flop at the box office. So was *Desire Me* (1947), which proved to be such a disaster that George Cukor, who had directed, refused to put his name to it. *That Forsyte Woman* (1949) marked a return to form, with Garson again in Edwardian costume, starring opposite Errol Flynn in the Galsworthy adaptation. But *The Miniver Story* (1950), in which she played opposite Walter Pidgeon for the sixth time, was an ill-advised sequel.

Garson — apart from reaching a difficult age for an actress — had also in 1949 married her third and last husband, "Buddy" Fogelson. Fogelson was a Texan oil millionaire and philanthropist, and Garson now had no need to work. She resented with him in Dallas and turned her mind to raising cattle, breeding horses, gardening and fishing. She also supported the local performing arts and produced the occasional play. She had an office in midtown Dallas where she checked in almost daily.

She could now afford to accept scripts only when she wanted to, and in this semi-retired state she spent the rest of her life. Dissatisfied with the way MGM had been handling her career, she was released from her contract in 1954. She took over from Rosalind Russell in the Broadway production of *Auntie Mame* in 1957, a feisty part which she enjoyed. She received another Oscar nomination for her part in *Sunrise at Campobello* (1960), about the early life of Franklin Roosevelt, and in 1967 showed that she still had the old sparkle in Walt Disney's *The Happiest Millionaire*. But in the 1970s she appeared only in television films and the occasional series.

Because of that intense moment of wartime popularity, however, Garson's reputation among the cinematically literate remained remarkably well preserved. New generations saw *Mrs. Miniver* on the television. Some older fans addressed their letters to her simply as "Mrs. Miniver, America". People still stopped her on the street and called her by that name. In recognition of her role in the war, she was appointed an honorary CBE in 1993.

Greer Garson was married three times, the first time to Edward Snelson, a British civil servant. Their marriage ended in divorce. Her second marriage was to Richard Ney, who had played her son in *Mrs. Miniver* (the two met on set). That marriage too ended in divorce. Her third marriage lasted almost forty years, her husband, Buddy Fogelson, predeceasing her in 1987. She survived by her stepson from that marriage.

BARNEY EWELL



Barney Ewell, Olympic sprinter, died in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on April 4 aged 78. He was born there on February 25, 1918.

A WIRY, leanly-muscled figure who sprang like a greyhound from the traps at the crack of the starter's gun, Barney Ewell was one of the world's most renowned sprinters during the years immediately before and after the Second World War. In his prime he set American and world records over 50 yards, 60 yards and 100 metres — the last clocked in 10.2 seconds — and in the 1948 Olympics, the "austerity games" staged in London, he took one gold and two silver medals, coming within a flash of sweeping three golds.

Norward H. Ewell, always known by his nickname Barney, showed athletic prowess at an early age. However, he was one of that unfortunate generation of athletes to reach their prime during the years of the Second World War when, with Europe riven by conflict, the Olympic Games could not be staged. In the three years from 1940 to 1943, when he was a student at Penn State University, he won an amazing 12 gold medals at collegiate meets, and a further 11 gold medals in Amateur Athletic Union national events. But when in the normal course of events he would have been thinking of turning professional, he was serving in the United States Army instead.

On demobilisation he completed his university degree, keeping up his physical training all the while, and in 1948, although at the age of 30 he was considered well past his athletic best, he equalled the 100-metre world record of 10.2 seconds in the final of the United States Olympic trials.

Ewell took one gold and two silver medals in the London Olympics, although after one of the races his American exuberance won him some disapproval from his reserved English hosts. In the final of the 100 metres he dashed across the line neck-and-neck with his fellow American Harrison Dillard. Believing that he had crossed first, Ewell raised his arms above his head and carved down the track. "It was not the done thing," said Sir Arthur Gold, one of the British coaches. "You were expected to stand still, catch your breath and shake your rival's hand." However, when the photo-finish was examined, Dillard was found, in fact, to have won. Ewell showed a generosity of spirit for which he had always been renowned, going over to his rival to shake his hand and congratulate him wholeheartedly.

When he did win gold, as part of the 400 metre relay team, the race was also tinged with controversy. The US team finished six yards ahead of the British team, but were disqualified when a judge ruled that the first pass between Ewell and one of his team mates took place beyond the legal zone. It was only three days after the medal ceremony that an appeals jury, having viewed films of the race, rescinded the disqualification.

In later years, Ewell returned to live in his birthplace where he was treated as a local hero. However, tragically for someone who had earned his fame as a runner, both of his legs had to be partially amputated. It was from complications arising from this that he died.

Barney Ewell is survived by his wife Duella, and by their three sons and a daughter.

GORDON CLOUGH

Gordon Clough, radio journalist, died after a long illness on April 6 aged 61. He was born on August 26, 1934.

A VETERAN anchorman of British radio, Gordon Clough was gifted with the broadcaster's art of turning a conversation into an essay. His full, deep voice combined with an understated yet penetrating intellect and a feeling command of the English language to make him one of the most respected voices in radio journalism. He had the talent, it was said, to make listeners actually listen.

Over the course of a long career dedicated to the BBC, Clough interviewed all the major players on the world scene, many of them well before they came to positions of great prominence — James Callaghan and Margaret Thatcher included. For more than 25 years he was a regular presenter of *The World At*

One, the flagship of BBC radio news, as well as the *World This Weekend* and the *PM* programme.

His special area of interest, however, and the one in which he was an acknowledged master, was the Soviet Union. In the days when Moscow was still seen as a brooding presence, threatening the stability of the West, Clough demystified its complexities to his listeners. Many of his programmes will be remembered as classics of the era.

His 1987 *File on 4* series, *A Revolution Without Shots*, was perhaps the most vivid report made at the time on the new glasnost in the Soviet Union. It provided obligatory listening, its first-hand interviews clearing a window onto the changing face of Soviet Russia. *The Indissoluble Union* made in 1989 won a Sony Award as the best documentary feature on current affairs, and later series such as *Death of a Superpower* (1991)

and *Ashes of Empire* (1991) were worthy successors to this. Clough also won a Sony Award in 1984 for his work as a presenter on *The World This Weekend*, voted the best current affairs programme.

Arthur Gordon Clough was born in Salford, Lancashire, and educated locally at Bolton School from which he won a scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he read French and Russian. After two years in the Navy he joined the BBC in 1958. He hoped, initially, to be a drama producer, but started working as a studio manager for the BBC External Services. In 1960 he joined the Russian Service, first as programme assistant but from 1963 onwards as programme organiser. He was truly branded as the man behind the BBC spy network. In 1968 he moved to Radio News Features as senior duty editor before becoming a freelance presenter in 1973.

The World at One was first

broadcast in 1965 as a lively current affairs programme, replacing the previous ragbag of news repeats with sharper, more popular and less reverent commentary. Andrew Boyle and the tough former Editor of the *Daily Mail* William Hardcastle were brought in as presenters.

"They found a desert and created an orchard," commented one distinguished journalist. And it was into this fertile environment that Clough came, "chucked in at the deep end" as he put it, on a day that Hardcastle was ill. His first programme was presented on May 1, 1967 — the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

His full deep voice, betwixt a short stocky stature, soon became one of the most popular in radio journalism. An adroit interviewer, he was less cocky than is fashionable among some current presenters, less concerned to voice a contrary argument. Yet never

deferential or sycophantic, his acute questions and sardonic sense of humour went straight to the point.

As well as presenting *The World at One*, *The World This Weekend* and *PM* Clough could be heard on *Europhone* and *Twenty Four Hours* broadcast over the BBC World Service. On a lighter, yet no less erudite, note he was the questionmaster of *Round Britain Quiz*, a programme which he himself described as an "island of self-indulgent academic mayhem in the sea of high moral purpose which is Radio 4". Where else could you learn, it was once asked, "that the man who designed fridges, refused the presidency of the state of Israel, described himself as an artist's model and was once offered a guaranteed three-week booking at the Palladium was none other than Albert Einstein?" The programme became a national monument, its format preserved in aspic. Clough

also presented *Round Europe Quiz* and *Transatlantic Quiz*. But gradually a prolonged illness took its toll on Clough.

His voice was robbed of its earlier clarity and in his last interviews he audibly fought for breath. In April 1994 he submitted his last report for *Europhone*, and the BBC let go one of its best-loved voices.

Outside his radio career Clough translated several books into English: five from the Russian, including the dissident Alexander Zinoviev's epic satire on Soviet bureaucracy *The Yawning Heights* (1979); and three from the French.

In retirement he continued to do the crosswords which he had always enjoyed, but had previously had little time to do except during editorial conferences. Gordon Clough married Carolyn Stafford in 1959. The marriage was dissolved in 1991. He is survived by his former wife and by their son and three daughters.

Church news

Church in Wales

Diocese of Bangor

Appointments

The Rev Madeline Brady to be Bishop's Officer for Co-ordinating the Lay Ministry, Diocesan Press Officer and Assistant Curate, Rural Deanery of Arllechwedd.

The Rev Dr Graham Loveluck, Diocesan Director of Education: Stipendiary Curate, Llanegwad and Llanallgo w. Penrhosllwyg w. Llanfangel Tre'r Beirdd.

The Rev Emrys Owen, Stipendiary Curate, Caernarfon: Stipendiary Curate, Llanberis w. Llanur.

Appointments

The Rev Brooke Kingsmill-Lunn, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Stroud Green (London): to be also a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

Wokingham (Oxford): to be Rector, Holy w. Hilgh Kelling (Norwich). The Rev Dr Robert Love, Priest-in-charge, St Elizabeth, Beconree: to be Vicar, St John and St Matthew, South Hornchurch (Chelmsford).

The Rev Michael McGowan, Vicar, Christ Church, Barnet (London): to be also a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev David Nash, Vicar, St Paul's, Winchmore Hill (London): to be also a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev Richard Newton, Curate, Dorking w. Ramore (Guildford): to be Priest-in-charge, Hagley (Worcester).

The Rev Graham Paddock, Priest-in-charge, St Paul, Thornton Heath (Southwark): to be Vicar of that parish.

The Rev Clare Pipe-Wolferstan, Honorary Curate, St Mary Redcliffe w. Temple, Bristol and St John the Baptist, Bedminster: to be Honorary Curate, East Bristol (Bristol).

The Rev Stephen Radley, Priest-in-charge, St Aldon's, Chilton: to be Priest-in-charge, Marley Hill and Education Training Officer for the deaneries of Guildford and Godalming West (Dorset).

The Rev Penny Rose-Casimore, Assistant Curate, St Mary and St John, Balham and Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting: to be Team Vicar, Christ Church, Clapham (Southwark).

The Rev David Senior, Rector, St Martin, Dorking (Leicester): to be Priest-in-charge, The Ascension, Hall Green (Birmingham).

The Rev Ursula Shore, Science Adviser in the diocese of Liverpool, and Curate, St John, Alnwick: to be Curate, St David, Childwall and continue as Diocesan Science Adviser.

The Rev Roy Smith, Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Stonebridge (London): to be also a Prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev James Tipp, Rector, Snodland w. Lower Birling: to be also Rural Dean of Cobham (Rochester).

The Rev Canon Paul Tongue, Vicar, Ambleside: to be also Rural Dean of Sturbridge (Worcester).

The Rev Geoffrey Wakeham: now Assistant Chaplain to the congregations of Torrevelja, Spain (Europe).

The Rev Stuart Wilmot, Priest-in-charge, St James w. Christ Church, Bermondsey and St Anne and St Augustine, Bermondsey: to be also Rural Dean of Bermondsey (Southwark).

The Rev Gordon Winchester, Curate, Bishop Hamington Memorial Church, Hove (Chichester): to be Vicar, All Saints w. Holy Trinity, Wandsworth (Southwark).

CONSECRATION OF THE CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE

Yesterday, the imposing Central Synagogue recently built in Great Portland Street, was consecrated by the Chief Rabbi, the Rev Dr Adler.

The Chief Rabbi, the "Dayanim", or members of the Ecclesiastical Court, the wardens, and other honorary officers of the congregation, then brought the scrolls of the law to the door of the new synagogue, and the Chief Rabbi exclaimed, "Open unto me the gates of righteousness, I will enter them, and praise the Lord." The doors being opened, the Chief Rabbi and others entered in procession with the scrolls in their arms. The ten scrolls, under richly embroidered velvet covers of crimson, purple, green and blue, were rolled round gilded of silver rods, surmounted by elaborately carved finials, from which were suspended small musical silver bells.

The scrolls were then carried up the synagogue and, passing under a large canopy of crimson cloth embroidered with gold, the procession arrived at the ark, the reader and choristers singing a psalm. As they approached the ark the venerable Sir Moses Montefiore, ascending the marble steps of the ark, withdrew the curtain before the ark, opened the dark massive oak doors, and

ON THIS DAY

April 8, 1870

The first synagogue in London was opened in 1857 after Cromwell allowed the Jews banished in 1290 to return to England. The Great Synagogue, London's Jewish Cathedral in Duke's Place, Aldgate, opened in 1722: with all its treasures it was destroyed during the Blitz.

The procession, still bearing the scrolls, descended from the dais, and again passing beneath the canopy walked seven times round the synagogue. During the first circuit David's psalm (Psalm XXX) for the dedication of the house was chanted by the Rev S. Ascher and choristers. A separate psalm was chanted during each successive circuit.

The procession then again ascended the dais and reverently placed the sacred scrolls within the ark, the gates of which were immediately closed and the curtain redrawn by Sir Moses

Montefiore. There is no permanent pulpit, but a light oaken pulpit was drawn to the front of the marble dais in front of the ark and from this central and elevated position the Chief Rabbi preached the sermon. Dr Adler was understood to refer to the Central Synagogue as the type and embodiment of the great central organisation of their charity and religion in the metropolis. It would represent the union of the various Hebrew congregations, as the Jewish religion itself was the centre of faith of all those creeds of mankind which deserved the name of religion. The munificence of members of their faith had enriched that temple. It was meet and right so to do, but these were only external graces, and the worshippers must remember to banish idle and profane thoughts when they entered the sanctuary, and to bring none but holy and spiritual meditations into the dwelling place of Jehovah.

Glancing at the oppression exercised upon the Jews in other ages and countries, the Chief Rabbi pointed out that the condition of the Jews in any State might safely be taken as the measure of the civilisation and enlightenment of that State. He referred in terms of congratulation to the position of the Jews in this country and their full enjoyment of social and political privilege.

